Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-036
Thursday
22 February 1990

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq's Husayn Demands 'Apologies' From Al-Asad

NC2102174090 Paris AFP in English 1722 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, Feb 21 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Wednesday demanded apologies from Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon as conditions for a reconciliation with Damascus.

The demands, accompanied by sharp criticism of Syrian policies, came in a letter to Jordanian parliamentary speaker Sulayman Arar responding to an appeal by MPs here for Arab leaders to work for "healthier inter-Arab relations."

Mr. Husayn called on Mr. Al-Asad "to apologize in a proper manner to the (Arab) nation and to Iraqis for positions and acts that have harmed the nation, so that we can be assured he is seriously willing to change and be in harmony with other Arab leaders."

"He must also withdraw his forces from Lebanon to allow this wounded Arab country to bandage its wounds, so that we can be assured that this condemnable act will not repeat itself," the Iraqi president added in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by AGENCE-FRANCE PRESSE. Syria "has harmed the Arab nation since President al-Asad took power in the early 1970s," Mr. Husayn said. He recalled that Damascus had "backed Iran in the Gulf war (against Iraq), blocked the transfer of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory in 1972 and diverted the waters of the Euphrates River in 1975."

On February 5, Jordanian MPs made an appeal to Mr. Husayn, Mr. al-Asad, Jordan's King Husayn and Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasir 'Arafat, urging them to "adopt a common position able to face up to the challenges of the Arab nation."

The offical Syrian agency SANA published the appeal and called on Jordan, Syria and Iraq to strengthen their ties in all fields, especially defence.

'Arafat Proposes Sending Arab Officers to Lebanon

NC2002132290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1156 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has proposed sending Arab officers to monitor the cease-fire in Beirut as a first step toward a comprehensive political solution in Lebanon. This would be a prelude to dispatching Arab forces to Lebanon so that there are not just Syrian forces stationed there. He noted that the Arab forces would remain in Lebanon for a designated time and that they would be withdrawn after they had carried out their pan-Arab duty.

'Arafat held talks with the Moroccan, Algerian, Syrian, and Saudi Arabian ambassadors in Tunis, member countries of the tripartite committee entrusted with resolving the Lebanese crisis, and the Arab League secretariat.

News reports published here today said Algerian presidential envoy Mohamed Tahir, who arrived in Tunis yesterday, had informed Yasir 'Arafat that Algeria approved of his Lebanese initiative. The reports added that the Palestinian president's initiative aims at developing the al-Ta'if accord, which has reached a deadlock.

Chedli Klibi Meets With Soviet Envoy to Tunis

LD1602102290 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1125 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 15 Feb (TAP)—Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, met at the League's headquarters yesterday with Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador to Tunisia.

The Soviet ambassador later declared that the talks dealt with the settlement of Middle East issues, the situation in Lebanon, and the emigration of Soviet Jews in light of statements by Yuriy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, on 12 February.

The Soviet diplomat added that the meeting also covered the results of the talks between the Soviet and U.S. foreign ministers, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the prospects for settlements.

AMU Issues Statement on 17-19 Feb Session

LD2102110390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] At the end of its ordinary session held in Tunis 17-19 February, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Consultative Council issued a statement in which it expressed satisfaction with regard to the proposals made by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to move forward from the constitution phase to the implementation phase, and with regard to the recommendations adopted during its current session.

The council welcomed with satisfaction President Ben Ali's call to the AMU Council to agree on a unified Maghrebian identity card that could be adopted as a standard document for movement among the Union's countries, the creation of a unified market, the opening of a common market for national agricultural goods, the creation of a Maghrebian academy for science, and a multipurpose university and production of joint media programs.

The Council also welcomed President Ben Ali's decision to exempt Tunisians traveling to the Maghreb from the travel tax, and installation of special gates for citizens of the Maghreb who enter Tunisia.

At the end of its ordinary session, which witnessed a transfer of chairmanship from Mr. Ahmed Osman,

speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives, to Mr. Omar Bejaoui, deputy speaker of the Tunisian House of Deputies, the Council adopted a number of recommendations related particularly to the movement of people and goods between the AMU countries, the realization of food security, standardization of academic curricula and legislature, welfare of Maghrebian communities living abroad, and cooperation with regional and international groupings.

These recommendations will be submitted to the AMU Chairmanship Council.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Departs 17 Feb

JN1702184790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad this afternoon after attending the celebrations held yesterday in Baghdad to mark the first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. He was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

Palestinian Affairs

Paper 'Discloses' 'Arafat Initiative on Lebanon

JN2102172190 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 22

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr]

[Text] Paris—AL-QABAS here discloses the reality and content of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's initiative on Lebanon, which the Palestinian leadership has shrouded with secrecy, and concerning which wide-scale Lebanese, Arab, and international contacts are currently being made. AL-QABAS has learned from well-informed Arab and Western sources, which are directly concerned with this issue, that 'Arafat's initiative provides for dispatching a Palestinian peace force to the "Christian enclave" in Lebanon in order to end the fighting between the forces of General Michel 'Awn and Dr. Samir Ja'ja'. This will be a preliminary step to a political dialogue to reach an agreement to prevent a long, suicidal war from threatening the area. Arafat's extensive contacts are being made to secure Lebanese, Arab, and international approval for this Palestinian initiative.

Below, AL-QABAS discloses the secrets, aims, true reasons, and the various contacts carried out regarding this initiative.

The fulcrum of 'Arafat's initiative is the dispatch of Palestinian peace troops to be stationed in specified positions and posts—to be agreed upon later—in the Christian enclave in order to consolidate the cease-fire and disengage the forces of Gen. Michel 'Awn and the elements of the "Lebanese militias" led by Samir Ja'ja', pending a permanent agreement between the two parties to normalize life in that area. The move in itself is daring. This is because it shows that the Palestinians who were deported by the Christian leaders and parties from this area by force—and with accompanying massacres—are ready to return to this area as a peace force, and are willing to participate through various political means to bring about agreement between 'Awn and Ja'ja'.

The numbers involved in the proposed Palestinian peace force to be sent to the Christian enclave are not yet clear. Nor is it known whether they will be in the hundreds or thousands, because this question will be thoroughly discussed after securing the needed approval for dispatching these troops.

'Arafat has proposed his Lebanese initiative, whose content the Palestinian leadership veiled in secrecy, on the basis of the following major factors:

1. 'Arafat hopes to duplicate in the Christian enclave what he accomplished recently in southern Lebanon, despite the different circumstances in the two areas. 'Arafat succeeded in deploying Palestinian peace forces to disengage the fighters of the "Amal" movement and "Hizballah" in Iqlim in al-Tuffah southern Lebanon, following weeks of bloody battles. This move met with support from some Arab parties on the basis that it undermined the influence of the pro-Iranian elements in the south. In addition, Syrian officials themselves did not object to the Palestinian move.

2. There are new relations linking 'Arafat and a number of Palestinian officials with Gen. 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja', although the nature of these relations, their significance, and their character, are not clear due to the secrecy that surrounds them. Therefore, 'Arafat has been careful to carry out direct and indirect contacts with both 'Awn and the leadership of the "Lebanese militias" regarding his initiative before undertaking Arab and international consultations on it.

3. Syrian forces cannot enter or station themselves in any part of the Christian enclave because of various Lebanese and international considerations. In addition, Arab countries are currently unwilling to dispatch forces to any area in Lebanon. The UN, furthermore, has absolutely no intention of sending international forces or observers to the Christian enclave. However, an armed force must be present to disengage the fighting parties in the Christian enclave.

'Arafat believes that only Palestinian forces are currently qualified for this mission. Certainly, the mission will be temporary and will not last long. It will be over when a clear agreement is reached between 'Awn and Ja'ja' and when normal life returns to the Christian area.

However, implementation of the initiative needs Arab and international support. This is what 'Arafat is seeking through his current wide-ranging contacts. AL-QABAS has learned that 'Arafat's efforts now focus on obtaining the higher tripartite Arab committee's support for the

initiative on the basis that such support, if provided, would win broad Arab support for the deployment of the Palestinian peace force in the Christian area. The Palestinian side is seeking in particular to convince Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to accept the initiative, as his acceptance could contribute towards convincing Syrian officials to approve it. There is a possibility—if other requirements for rendering the initiative a success are made available—that the Palestinian peace forces be accompanied by Algerian officers in their deployment in the Christian area. In addition, 'Arafat was eager to brief Syrian officials directly on the contents of his initiative.

The Palestinian side stresses that the initiative is not aimed against the al-Ta'if agreement in any way. They also stress that it is a humanitarian rather than political initiative. On the international level, 'Arafat hopes to gain the support of France and the Vatican in particular, because of the close and constant relations between them and the population and leaders of the Christian area. On this basis, a French-Palestinian meeting took place in Paris yesterday on the initiative. However, no direct Palestinian-U.S. contact has taken place on the topic so far.

What are 'Arafat's Lebanese initiative's chances of success? According to well-informed Arab sources, Yasir 'Arafat must meet four basic conditions to guarantee the success of his initiative and to get the green light for the Palestinian peace forces' deployment in the Christian area. These conditions are:

1. The initiative must be approved by the legitimate Lebanese authority represented by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and by the government of Salim al-Huss. The approval of 'Awn and Ja'ja', if secured, is not enough.
2. The initiative must be approved by the higher tripartite Arab committee, as this committee has been entrusted by an Arab summit with settling the Lebanese problem.
3. The initiative must be approved by the Syrian leadership.
4. U.S. approval must be obtained for the deployment of Palestinian forces, albeit peace forces, in the Christian area.

According to information available to AL-QABAS, 'Arafat's initiative has not so far received the approval of any of these parties.

AL-QABAS has learned from a prominent Arab official that 'Arafat's initiative "faces many difficulties and obstacles, but the Palestinian president still hopes to overcome them and play a peacemaking role in the Lebanese crisis."

The Arab official added: "It is not necessary to guarantee the success of an initiative before proposing it. In some cases, there are many visible and invisible factors that prompt an initiative regardless of the difficulties facing it."

'Arafat Receives USSR Ambassador in Tunis

LD2102201890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], brother president of the state of Palestine, received the USSR ambassador in Tunis.

During the audience, Brother Abu-'Ammar briefed the ambassador on the latest development inside our occupied land in the aftermath of the continuous Israel escalation against the intifadah of our people, and on the efforts being made to bring peace to the Middle East.

Duing the audience, talks also touched upon the Palestinian peace initiative to restore peace, stability and a cease-fire in Beirut.

Emigration Causes Tense PLO-Soviet Relations

JN2002151090 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 19 Feb 90 pp 1, 22

[Text] Tunis—A high-ranking Palestinian official has asserted to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that high tension prevails in Soviet-PLO relations as a result of the large-scale Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel and the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. The Palestinian official said that the Soviet Union has strongly rejected the PLO's protests as interference in Soviet domestic affairs.

The Palestinian official added that the Soviet leaders asked Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to immediately stop these protests and criticisms against the Soviet Union. He also said that Soviet leaders have refused to brief the PLO on the outcome of recent talks held by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with his counterpart Eduard Shevadnadze in Moscow, although the talks dealt with Jewish emigration, arrangements for direct air travel between Moscow and Tel Aviv to transport the Soviet emigrants, and the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

The Palestinian official also said that the Kremlin leaders have been ignoring the idea of inviting the Palestinian president to visit Moscow, although 'Arafat has hinted several times in recent months that he would like to visit Moscow to discuss several important issues.

Abu-Sharif on Israeli 'Plans' To Occupy Jordan

JN1802213890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Feb 90 pp 1, 22

[Text] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser, in exclusive statements to AL-ITTIHAD's Tunis correspondent, says the PLO Central Council will be convened by the end of this month to discuss the systematic state terror against the Palestinian people and to make a number of organizational decisions on calling a Palestine National Council session for next November. On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Abu-Sharif said: We aim to build real Arab solidarity. There is no

question that Syria has an important role to play in Arab solidarity, if it is built on a clear political program and Arab resources are mobilized against the enemy.

On the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine, Abu-Sharif said the aim is to revive the Zionist dream of building "Greater Israel."

Mr. 'Arafat's adviser said Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon have contingency plans that call for the occupation of Jordan as a way to avoid withdrawing from Arab land conquered in 1967 under the slogan of finding a substitute homeland for the Palestinians. We will extend every cooperation to Jordan to repel any Israeli attempt in that direction and to resist any Israeli attack on Jordanian territory.

On the Middle East peace process, Abu-Sharif said: We showed ourselves to be positive by paving the way for the peace process to get started, and now the ball is in the court of the United States and Israel.

'Arafat's adviser expected to see the United states take serious action in the next few days toward convening the three-way meeting to prepare the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. The Palestinian official expected the tripartite meeting to be held by the end of this month and the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to take place in the first quarter of this year.

Jordanian Role Reportedly Sought in Peace Efforts

JN2002124690 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Tunis/Amman—Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AKHIR KHABAR that president Yasir 'Arafat has told the PLO Executive Committee during its recent meeting that the Palestinian peace initiative now needs to be developed in order to give it further impetus.

The sources said that 'Arafat has said that the continuity of the current situation will soon make him disbelieve in, and abandon the peace offensive. The sources added that a lengthy discussion was held on the factors that may boost the peace process now, especially the Jordanian role, which may resolve many difficulties that still hinder the beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The sources asserted that the meeting also discussed the outcome of the recent talks held by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, in Amman which dealt with the possibility of Jordan entering the current arrangements for taking practical steps toward peace in the region.

Information available to AKHIR KHABAR says that the issue of declaring a confederation between Jordan and Palestine before the actual independence was discussed by King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat during the latter's recent visit to Amman.

The sources added that Washington, as well as Moscow, believes that it is necessary for Jordan to play a major role in the peace process in spite of the decision to disengage ties with the West Bank.

The sources also said that Richard Murphy, the former U.S. envoy to the Middle East who played an important role in the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO, visited Jordan a month and a half ago on an official unannounced mission, and the nature of talks held during that visit were not revealed. Observers speculated that the visit dealt with the possibility of Jordan playing some role in the political process.

In another development, it has now become certain that the PLO Central Council will meet in Amman before the end of February for the first time since 1970, when the crisis [between Jordan and the PLO] was at its climax. This meeting may mark the climax of "mutual trust" between the two parties. Will Nayif Hawatimah, George Habash, and others attend the meetings?

PNC Speaker Rejects Sharon's Plans, Proposals

JN2102104890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Feb 90 Second Edition p 1

[By Muhammad 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, has categorically rejected the provisions of a plan proposed by Sharon, former Israeli industry and trade minister, stressing that the plan proves that Israeli officials are equal in their arrogance, that they are trying to tell the world they are against peace, and that they want nothing except war, violence and world enmity.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the PNC speaker affirmed that what had been said by Sharon as part of his plan and the resulting comments will never be accepted by any Palestinian official or nonofficial because by his plan Sharon emphasizes that he has completely turned his back on peace efforts.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih also stressed the need to reinforce Arab solidarity, to tell the world that the Arabs will never relinquish their right to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and to select the persons who will hold a dialogue with Israel. He then reiterated his absolute rejection of Sharon's plan.

'Tense' Egyptian-Palestinian Ties Reported

JN2002131490 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 2

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Cairo/Tunis/Amman—It is no secret that there has been declared tension in Palestinian-Egyptian relations recently after they were expected, in the recent past, to improve in light of successes that were expected to be made in the peace process, on which the Egyptian

side has continued to stress Washington's seriousness and that it will exert pressure on the Israeli Government!

If the bus operation in Ismailia, including what it has produced in terms of a semi-official Egyptian attack on the PLO's leadership, has openly exposed differences over the political process, then a statement made to AKHIR KHABAR by a senior Palestinian official proves that the Palestinian side has become convinced of the need to reply to the Egyptian accusations by counteraccusations.

The Palestinian official, who preferred not to be identified, said that "the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow issues 25-45 visas daily to Soviet Jews to travel to Egypt." He added: "Egypt Air planes are booked one year in advance from Moscow to Cairo".

Independent sources in Cairo said that the embassy in Moscow cannot refuse to give tourist visas to Soviet Jews, because first, it cannot tell who is or who is not a Jew, and second, how can it refuse to issue visas while it has full diplomatic relations with the USSR? However, these same sources ruled out that these Jews would immediately leave for Israel, and that they might leave for Lod Airport after making a stopover at a third station. The sources added that it is difficult to compare this issue to the emigration of the Falasha Jews via Sudan almost five years ago.

Earlier, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], second in command in the Fatah Movement, had criticized the Egyptian stand toward the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

On the same day, the official Egyptian News Agency, MENA, quoted a responsible Egyptian source as denouncing Abu-Iyad's statements, and saying that this is interference in Egypt's domestic affairs.

The worsening or removal of these differences depends on the progress in the political process regarding the Palestine question, which, it has become clear, has reached a dead end.

In light of this, observers say that the next few days will be very hot on the level of Palestinian-Egyptian relations.

'Arafat Receives Arab League Official

JN2102222290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has received Mr. Muhammad al-Farra, Arab League assistant secretary general.

The meeting dealt with the latest political developments, developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the increasing escalation of Israeli suppression against the sons of our people. The meeting also discussed the latest developments in Lebanon and the efforts being made to consolidate the cease-fire in light of the Palestinian initiative announced recently by brother Abu-'Ammar.

Palestine National Council Chairman Interviewed

OW1802200690 Beijing XINHUA in English 1930 GMT 18 Feb 90

["PLO Agrees to Arab Summit: PNC Chairman"—XINHUA headline]

[Text] Amman, February 18 (XINHUA)—Chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih declared today that the PLO agrees to the convocation of an Arab summit to deal with the influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied territories.

In an exclusive interview with XINHUA, Al-Sa'ih said such summit would define a unified Arab attitude toward developments on both the Arab and international arenas, particularly toward the dangers arising from the emigration of Soviet Jewy to the occupied territories.

The emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine "constitutes great dangers" to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Al-Sa'ih said, adding that the Palestine Liberation Organization has requested the Soviet Union to ban the Jewish emigration until the Arab-Israeli conflict is over.

Al-Sa'ih urged all Arab states to meet the Israeli challenge in order to avert the dangers and to protect their own interests.

He was referring to the Israeli plan for a "Greater Israel" which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has described as necessary to settle the incoming Soviet Jews.

Reports said about 300,000 to 400,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel over the next three years, and Israel plans to settle most of them in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Several Arab leaders have called for an Arab summit to work out policies to counter the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel.

In reference to the forthcoming meeting of the Palestinian Central Council (PCC) in Amman early next month, Al-Sa'ih, said that high on the agenda will be Arab material and moral support for the Palestinian uprising and the emigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine.

Algeria

Mozambique's President Chissano Continues Visit

Holds News Conference

LD1802121390 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] This evening, the Mozambican president held a news conference at the Al-Mithaq residence. Farida Beccouche reports:

[Beccouche] First of all, President Alberto Joaquim Chissano said that his visit in Algeria came at an interesting time: He cited the upheavals that have affected the world in recent times and above all the developments that have occurred in South Africa. In fact, the hope is that these latest developments will have a positive influence on the situation in southern Africa and above all in Mozambique. So, a question was posed immediately: At what stage are the dealings or negotiations between the Maputo government and the Renamo guerrillas? President Chissano's reply was as follows: We are trying to create a favorable atmosphere on the basis of universally acceptable principles but we have not yet succeeded in establishing a preparatory basis, a preparatory atmosphere. Nevertheless, the Mozambican president announced he is currently engaging in contacts, through the intermediary of two African presidents—Arap Moi of Kenya and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe. He spoke of an evolution, perhaps not a great one but at least a significant one, of a certain effort as Renamo speaks of the People's Republic of Mozambique as a partner whereas before it shunned it. For my part, I tried to find out whether the Mozambican president was going to take part in the Zaire summit, in which the South African president should take part. Mr. Chissano admitted that he had learned about the holding of this summit from the press. I do not know if I have been invited but it has to be said that I have been absent from Mozambique for a few days—I have been in Libya, and now in Algeria. It is quite possible I shall find an invitation to the summit when I return to Maputo, he said. At any rate he hopes above all that this summit will be positive for southern Africa as a whole, as the problems to be settled in that region are numerous.

On the subject of Algerian-Mozambican cooperation, President Chissano spoke of cooperation agreements signed during this visit. As for his political talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, he said that these were necessary in this phase of evolution and great upheaval witnessed by the world.

Joint News Statement Issued

LD2102115290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] A news statement was issued at the end of the visit to Algeria by the president of Mozambique. It pointed out that Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Joaquim Alberto Chissano have had thorough talks on bilateral issues and on regional and international topical matters. When studying the relations of bilateral cooperation and exchange, the presidents agreed to exert all efforts to give concrete form to all the possibilities for cooperation between the two countries in all fields. Within this context, both sides signed a technical, scientific, and cultural cooperation agreement. The two presidents also exchanged views on the prevailing situation in their two regions.

President Chissano expressed the hope that the project for the edification of the Maghreb will contribute to the success of the joint good offices efforts by the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general for a just and final settlement of the Western Sahara issue, in accordance with Resolutions 104 of the OAU and 4050 of the United Nations.

The two presidents saluted Namibia's independence and the victories scored by the illustrious people of South Africa which is struggling against racial discrimination, and in particular the release of the historic leader Nelson Mandela. They also saluted the Palestinian intifidah and expressed the solidarity of their countries with the Palestinian national liberation struggle under the leadership of its legitimate representative, the PLO. They also condemned the oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation forces and the plans aimed at the redoubling the seizure of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The two heads of state expressed their support for the work of the Arab tripartite committee and the legitimate government of Lebanon aimed at the return of peace, legitimacy, and Lebanese territorial integrity.

Both sides considered this visit, which embodies the ties of friendship, fraternity, and cooperation between the peoples of Algeria and Mozambique, as a contribution to the consolidation of African solidarity. His Excellency President Joaquim Chissano invited His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid to pay an official visit to Mozambique. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, and it will take place at a date to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Concludes Visit, Departs 20 Feb

LD2102135990 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Algiers, 21 Feb (APS)—Mozambique President Joaqim Albert Chissano left Algiers Tuesday [20 February] at the end of a four-day official visit to Algeria. Before his departure, President Chissano had a last series of talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. He also conferred with [name indistinct], secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front] party secretary general. Moreover, the Mozambique head of state gave a news conference during which he mainly dealt with his talks with Algerian officials which, he said, centered on the reinforcement of relations between the two countries. He

added that a number of agreements have been signed, mainly in the fields of agriculture and mines.

Joaqim Chissano also appreciated the courage with which the Algerian officials and people are carrying out the reforms. Moreover, the Mozambique president also dealt with the discussions with the Renamo, an organization aimed opposition financed by South Africa and which has been distinguished by systematic massacres and destructions.

An agreement of cultural, technical and scientific cooperation was signed Tuesday here between Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Hamid Sidi Said and Mozambique Minister of Cooperation Jacinto Velos.

In the frame of this agreement, the Algerian experts who are at present in Mozambique will be reinforced and their field of cooperation will be enlarged to include health, education and enable the creation of joint companies between the two countries one of which has already been created and specializes in wood. This reinforcement in cooperation will also enable the capacity of production and favor the export of wood towards Algeria.

Egypt

U.S. Stand on UN Human Rights Vote Criticized

JN2102131090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Feb p 5

[Editorial: "How Resolutions Can Be Transformed Into Action"]

[Text] They are not the first resolutions, nor will they be the last that are issued by international organizations and institutions condemning the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In fact, we need much time and strenuous efforts to count these resolutions.

However, the three resolutions that were unanimously approved by the UN Human Rights Committee, with the exception of the United States, as usual, are worthy of interest and following up on the international level. There should be extensive efforts to broadcast and make them known on the largest possible scale, and to make them the major issue on the agenda of a special UN General Assembly meeting, whose objective should be to take positive and decisive measures to force Israel to respect the international resolutions, and to put an end to its indifference to world public opinion and the resolutions that are issued by the institutions of which this state is a member. This state believes it is above every law and legislation and that it can perpetrate any crime and violate all legal and humanitarian charters and at the same time escape punishment.

The three resolutions condemned Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupation authorities' violation of human rights, and their continued occupation of territories by force in a manner that prevents the Palestinian people from exercising their legitimate rights, most important of which is their right to self-determination. The resolutions also strongly condemned the firing on unarmed Palestinians by the Israeli Army and Jewish settlers, the destruction of their houses, the confiscation of their property, and the imposition of unjust economic restrictions on them. All these are heinous crimes. Despite this, it was only the United States that abstained from voting on these resolutions. This stand means that it approves of these crimes as long as the criminal is its ally, Israel.

Ministry Hails EC Statement on Jewish Settlement

NC2102193190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry released a statement today expressing Egypt's welcome of the Dublin declaration concerning Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territory. The EC declaration, issued on 20 February by the EC's ministerial conference, emphasized that the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territory and in East Jerusalem runs counter to international law and, consequently, is illegal.

Egypt praised the EC's constructive and just stand as outlined in the Dublin declaration on the possibilities of settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territory. The statement said that Egypt noted with satisfaction the congruous Egyptian and European stands on the need to respect the fraternal Palestinian people's rights in the occupied Arab territory and that the Jews who are enjoying their right to emigrate from the Soviet Union should not infringe on Palestinian rights. The statement said that Egypt welcomes this effective European position that reasserts the EC's basic role in the process of seeking a permanent, comprehensive, and just peace in the Middle East and reaffirms that the principles of human rights are an indivisible whole and that these principles must be implemented without discrimination or segregation on a racial or religious basis.

Columnist Defends Egypt's Role in Peace Efforts

JN2102225090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 22

["Stances" column by Anis Mansur]

[Text] A Palestinian leader has said: Egypt's endeavors to bring Israel and Palestine close have exhausted their purposes!

This means that Egypt has done all it can and has nothing more to offer; or that Egypt's efforts have ended in failure, and that the Palestinians should follow another course of action. The Palestinian leader did not tell us if this other course was the Ismailia-Cairo road, or

the road to the Jewish banks all over the world where they have deposits of more than $17 billion. These are official figures that were put before President Mubarak and President al-Sadat at the time. This sum was decreased by the $1 billion they lost in speculations in the Kuwaiti financial market, al-Manakh!

This means that, after it had sacrificed some 100,000 martyrs and $100 billion, and displaced its sons in Suez, Ismailia, and Port Said—who outnumbered the Palestinians in and outside the occupied territories—Egypt has nothing more to offer. Is there nobody to thank Egypt for that? One might say, however, that Egypt should not be thanked for merely doing its duty. But even this was not noted by anyone! All that was said was: O Egypt, your role has come to an end. It is time that the Palestinian side enters the scene alone to solve the issue. Nor did the Palestinian leader, however, tell us whether the Palestinian role had begun. He did not say. Nor did he even say whom he will exploit this time instead of Egypt, whose role is over. Indeed, a decision was made to do away with Egypt's services without paying the thanks due to it. Because Egypt did not expell the Israelis from Israel and from Palestine and did not throw Israel into the sea, therefore, Egypt has achieved nothing. Had Egypt done so, it would have returned the princes of the Palestinian resistance to Palestine and deprived them of their funds, property, palaces, mistresses, and female dancers. They, and we too, know that they are not interested in a solution, in returning, or in being deprived of the millions they have squeezed out of the Gulf states! These millions were not sent to the occupied territories. They were used only to make cassettes, publish bulletins, and threaten sons in foreign universities if their fathers do not do this or that. We, in Egypt, have written complaints to this effect. We mediated to have these leaders forgive the sons of the West Bank and Gaza!

Al-Baz on Moscow Visit, Jewish Emigration

JN2102112290 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Feb 90 pp 16, 17

[By Hamdi 'Abd-al-Hafiz]

[Text] Moscow—Answering a question by ROSE AL-YUSUF on the aims of his visit to Moscow, Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, has said that he came to Moscow to make the final arrangements for President Mubarak's visit on 19 March, and to coordinate efforts with the Soviet side to confront Israel's plans to settle Soviet Jews in the Palestinian territories.

During a meeting with the Egyptian community in the USSR last Wednesday, al-Baz described the emigration of Soviet Jews and settling them in the occupied territories as a catastrophe that requires extensive Arab and international efforts to foil the Zionist plan to establish "Greater Israel." Al-Baz showed understanding of the Soviet stand toward this issue, saying: In light of the open policy and democracy being witnessed in Soviet society, it is unreasonable to continue to deprive citizens of their right to travel and choose their place of residence. Those who are to blame are those who forced these emigrants to go to Israel and closed other doors in their faces.

Al-Baz ruled out the possibility of USSR involvement in a conspiracy with Israel and the United States to settle the Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories. He said: The USSR has no interest in this action. What happened was that respect for human rights and the right to travel coincided with U.S. legislation preventing a large number of emigrants from entering the United States. The United States used to treat Soviet Jews as politically persecuted and receive them as refugees. Now, however, under perestroyka, talk about persecution or encroachment on human rights in the USSR is slanderous and merely an illusion.

Regarding the expected results of President Mubarak's visit to Moscow next month, al-Baz said that there are African, Arab, and Egyptian aspects to the president's visit. He said: On the African level, Egypt currently chairs the OAU, and we have something to discuss with the USSR, as a superpower, regarding the situation in Africa. On the Arab level, there are the Middle East settlement, the Egyptian and the Soviet efforts to hold the international conference, and the issue of Jewish emigration. On the Egyptian level, several agreements will be signed in the field of economic, cultural, and trade cooperation. The Soviet market is completely open for Egyptian commodities and products, and the Egyptian consumer is also interested in Soviet commodities.

Foreign Minister Views Bus Incident, Peace

PM2102114390 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Feb 90 p 24

[Unattributed interview with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Riyadh; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Will the "bus" incident affect the peace efforts in the Middle East?

'Abd-al-Majid: I do not believe so. The peace efforts are continuing and will continue. We, for our part, have, in coordination with the PLO, defined our positions and the U.S. side has been informed. Consultations are being held with a view to holding a meeting in Europe last week, but I assure you that the incident was not the direct reason for the postponement of that meeting. The need to complete the consultations was the reason for the postponement.

AL-HAWADITH: Telephone and diplomatic contacts have taken place between President Mubarak and Yitzhaq Shamir and also between you and Israeli Foreign Minister Arens. What were the contacts about? Was the Egyptian position on the incident been explained?

'Abd-al-Majid: The telephone contacts focused on explaining the Egyptian position on the incident as declared by the president of the Republic, a position of condemnation and denunciation of the incident, which is indefensible. The killing of innocent people and terrorist operations serves no purpose.

AL-HAWADITH: On the East European developments, we have learned that President Mubarak has formed two committees to consider the possible political and economic effects of these developments on Egypt and the Arab world.

'Abd-al-Majid: The two committees are still conducting their studies and will soon submit their recommendations to President Mubarak. I believe that the effects of these developments would depend on the Arab side. Unification of Arab ranks and Arab solidarity are the deciding factor in such matters. Even if the effects are not positive, we should prepare and we should face them.

AL-HAWADITH: Observers are unanimous about the danger of the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territory. What is Egypt's position on that?

'Abd-al-Majid: That is an important and serious matter. President Husni Mubarak has sent letters to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on that issue. I have sent a letter to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens drawing attention to the danger of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine. We are following this matter up and we are warning of its consequences. There can be no doubt that the matter calls for consultation, cooperation, and solidarity between the Arab and Islamic states to ward off this grave danger.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the way out of the state of "no peace, no war" in the Gulf region?

'Abd-al-Majid: President Saddam Husayn has undertaken a positive initiative which could form a main basis in the current negotiations between the two countries under UN supervision with the aim of achieving a comprehensive, complete, and interlinked implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987.

AL-HAWADITH: What point have Syrian-Egyptian relations reached in the light of the exchanged visits and the resumption of diplomatic and normal relations btween the two countries?

'Abd-al-Majid: These visits and meetings have produced tangible results in terms of rectifying the fraternal relations between the two countries and in the interest of the Arab nation. The expected meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad will be the culmination of Arab changes that will chart relations in possible areas of cooperation with the aim of restoring Egyptian-Syrian relations to the status quo ante. The two presidents are determined to fulfill all their aspirations and expectations, not only insofar as relations between the two countries are concerned, but also in pursuit of their hopes for all the pan-Arab and international issues of common interest.

AL-HAWADITH: What about inter-Arab relations at present?

'Abd-al-Majid: Inter-Arab relations are now better than before. True, there are Arab differences, but the Arab states are determined to overcome these differences through more dialogue and consultation.

There is Arab consensus that the tripartite committee should continue its efforts on Lebanon. Egypt supports the efforts of that higher committee. President Mubarak has repeatedly stressed the importance of a cease-fire, lifting the blockades, and restoring constitutional legitimacy. Furthermore, non-Lebanese forces must withdraw to give way to legitimate sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

AL-HAWADITH: Three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok were the targets of a terrorist operation resulting in their martyrdom. In your view, what measures could be taken to protect diplomats abroad and prevent terrorist operations?

'Abd-al-Majid: First I want to commend the pioneering role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in promoting peace in the Middle East. The Kingdom is playing a major and effective part in the peace process. Saudi Arabia is interested in the establishment of stability and a just peace in the region. I am continually holding contacts and consultations with my brother and colleague Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. I keep him informed on all developments relating to the Middle East peace process. Saudi diplomacy is wise, balanced, and positive. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, is playing an effective part in creating an atmosphere for reconciliation, for clearing the air, and for stronger solidarity, and he commands worldwide respect. That is why the whole world condemned these terrorist operations against Saudi diplomats. Egypt strongly condemns such terrorist criminal acts. The Arab and Islamic worlds must join hands to put an end to these criminal acts.

AL-HAWADITH: The Islamic states' foreign ministers are expected to hold their 19th session at Egypt's invitation. Have preparations for the session been completed, and has Egypt now fully regained its Islamic position?

'Abd-al-Majid: At the meetings marking the 20th anniversary of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], I spoke on behalf of the Arab group. Egypt, government and people, will be happy to host the 19th Islamic ministerial conference scheduled for Cairo in the near future. The conference will be another milestone in the efforts to strengthen the organization's march in pursuit of further achievements.

On this occasion I would like to hail the significant role played by the ICO in boosting efforts to strengthen the Islamic states' solidarity.

The organization represents one family embodying the Islamic nation. It is only fair to say that the custodian of the two holy mosques, the Saudi monarch, has made great efforts in supporting the organization materially and morally.

The organization has proved that it is capable of numerous achievements and decisions in various fields. It has clearly had a tangible effect on the Islamic world and elsewhere.

AL-HAWADITH: The ICO emerged after the al-Aqsa Mosque fire. To what extent has the organization been successful in defending the Palestinian cause?

'Abd-al-Majid: That is correct. Since its birth and to this day the organization has been linked with the Palestinian cause. It has taken advanced stands which have been effective in addressing the conscience of the world's free nations everywhere.

The summit and foreign ministers' conferences have drawn up a clear and complete plan for aiding and supporting the Palestinian people materially and morally so as to enable them to continue their struggle and regain their homeland and rights. It has advocated the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent state. That has strengthened the Palestinian people's struggle at home and abroad. The Islamic states are called upon, now more than ever, to support the Palestinian people to the utmost and to provide them with aid as they valiantly confront the Israeli occupation forces. They are urged to support the Palestinian people's intifadah until the Palestinian people achieve independence on their own national soil and contribute, along with the other Islamic nations and all peace-loving people, to the establishment of justice, freedom, and security for all.

Speaker Mahjub Confers With PLO's Al-Surani

JN2002164090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at Mahjub yesterday discussed with PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani developments concerning the Palestine question, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and the emigration of Soviet Jews. Present at the meeting were Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qudrah.

During the meeting the delegation praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts on the Palestine question and Egypt's strong stance and constant efforts to find a just, permament, and comprehensive solution.

Senior PLO Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC2102154590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation including Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members, arrived in Cairo today to visit Egypt for several days. MENA has learned that the Palestinian delegation will meet with a number of senior Egyptian officials. The delegation members will also meet with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Egyptian officials and the delegation will discuss current developments in the Palestinian issue in the international arena and Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

Al-Baz Confers With Delegation

NC2102194890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members; Palestine Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo. After the meeting, Dr. Al-Baz stated that the conferees reviewed developments in the Middle East. He said that this meeting is part of a coordination and consultation effort between Egypt and the PLO to advance the regional peace process.

Palestinian Official on Ties, Cooperation

NC2002103090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0819 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 20 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has stated that the PLO is taking care to develop relations with Egypt and to confront any attempts to provoke disagreements between the two sides. In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Amman, the Palestinian official said that Egypt-PLO cooperation on all issues, particularly the Palestinian issue, has not stopped.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan the end of this month at King Husayn's invitation. They will discuss international developments and the need for Arab countries to coordinate action regarding the danger that Soviet Jewish immigration poses to the Palestinian issue and to Jordan.

He called for Arab summit to discuss this issue seriously and to draw up an Arab strategy to confront the situation. He referred to the USSR's stand which supports a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian issue and recognizes legitimate Palestinian rights.

Commenting on Syrian-Palestinian ties, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the PLO is seeking to establish good relations

with Syria based on r
tion in internal affa
leadership's decision
restore relations to t
such a dialogue wou

on mutual confidence and nonintervention affairs. He referred to the Palestinian tion to conduct a dialogue with Syria to to their previous status. He hoped that would be carried out in Moscow.

Article Ridicules F s Fatah's Salah Khalaf

JN2002190390 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[Article by Editor i or in Chief Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Abu-Iyad's Talk and Sh Shameful Flirtations"—all quotation marks as published] ed]

[Text] Brother Sala Salah Khalaf, alias "Abu-Iyad," is a highly complicated p ed person in theory and practice.

As a "hobby," and nd proceeding from a personal desire and even a natural wi l willingness, he loves to talk and make speeches and stateme ements.

He likes politics and and political analyses.

In this way, he presen esents himself as the "philosopher" and ideologue of the P e Palestinian revolution. This title requires publicity fo for oneself and a search for the limelight.

On the other hand, nd, he is an invisible man. He is the unseen arm that mov noves and plans the special operations. He is the man behind hind "Black September" and assassinations—or at least so so during a certain time period of the revolution. This tas task requires complete secrecy and keeping as far away way as possible from the limelight. It requires working in p in perfect silence and quietude.

With this "contradict dictory" nature of his task, and due to his mental and psy psychological makeup, he wishes to present himself as: s:

The man of the sw sword, and the man of the pen or "word."

The warrior statesma sman.

However—and this his is a fact—the man's love of the limelight surpasses ar s any other love.

I believe that this is is his problem and crisis with "Abu-'Ammar" [Yasir 'Ara Arafat] and with all the "great leaders" in Palestinian circles. cles.

He is a rejectionist, nist, rebel, and wrathful critic of all behavior and policies cies as evidenced by his "fiery" statements that fill the ne newspapers and radio stations.

He is a committed tted ideologue who has taken on the responsibility of conv onvincing the youth and making them "swallow the bitter r er poison." Whenever the duty is to follow a new line, po , policy, or trend, as long as he, the revolutionary rejecti ectionist, has accepted it, then the others have to yield eld and accept, since one cannot outflank "Abu-Iyad."

This "particular scene" was one of the "side" sessions that took place in the latest Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers.

With incredible "mastery," Abu-'Ammar chaired the meeting of the Fatah cadres. The "extremist" Abu-Iyad, then, proceeded to explain to the cadres the "usefulness of the peaceful solution" or the Palestinian peace project. It was a session with its special ups and downs. Crying and wailing could be heard while they declared their conviction and acceptence of the project.

Abu-Iyad, the special operations man, was also the secret guest of the "Elysee Palace" to wipe the face of the Palestinian revolution clean of all accusations of terrorism and violence pointing to him when Paris, in the late seventies and early eighties, changed into a theater for assassinations and settlement of accounts.

In a highly secretive mission, Abu-Iyad held a number of meetings with the highest-ranking security officials in the "Elysee" and the French capital. Afterward, the political climate improved, and public meetings took place at the foreign minister level and later on the Mitterrand-'Arafat level.

I will tell you a story which perhaps might still be alive in Abu-Iyad's memory. He knows the story v ll.

The story goes like this: A meeting was held for hours on end and over a period of more than two days between "one of the great leaders" of the revolutions and "Abu-Nidal" [Sabri al-Banna], the mythical figure in the Palestinian arena.

The two strugglers had not met for a long, long time.

Both had been involved in preparations and special operations such as assassinations, settling of accounts, and so on.

The two leaders revealed their cards. "Our friend, one of the great leaders, played the game with Abu-Nidal to the very end. They proceeded to review the series of assassinations against dedicated and honest Palestinian strugglers, such as 'Izz-al-Din Qalaq, Na'im Khudayr, Sa'id Hamami, al-Sartawi, and others.

Our friend moved closer toward the liquidations that have been claimed by Abu-Nidal and executed by his men against the cadres of the Palestinian revolution itself.

The surprise took place when our friend, who is "one of the Palestinian leaders," told Abu-Nidal: Do not be annoyed when I tell you, based on documents, that your men who carried out the liquidations, whom I can name, are Mosad members within a wider international network. They are actually enrolled and know what they are doing.

Moreover, our friend disclosed to Abu-Nidal a series of misleading pieces of information on whose basis decisions were made to liquidate selected "cadres."

The end of the story, which Abu-Iyad knows well, and which I was told about by "one of the Palestinian leaders," was that Abu-Nidal fell into a hysterical fit of weeping.

Although it seems that I have stepped out of the subject, the contrary is true.

What I wanted to say is that Abu-Iyad is not unaware of reality or facts. He experiences them, lives with them, and has taken part in making them.

If he appeased the French once, agreed and cooperated for the sake of the cause, it is absolutely unacceptable to move the arena of operations, settling of accounts, or the violent messages to Cairo, whether the operation [the Israeli bus attack] took place with the PLO's prior knowledge—which I do not imagine—or without its knowledge—which I believe to be so.

Therefore, Egypt's anger is legitimate and natural, and its disappointment with the tepid PLO statement is real.

If Abu-Iyad is aware of the details of the story of the presence of Mosad fingers in most of the operations which claimed the lives of real strugglers and of many other operations, why has he become angered by Egypt's indignation with the operation and the statement? This is especially since the operation and the statement undermine all efforts being undertaken, and break the peace siege imposed on Israel.

A sophisticated person like Abu-Iyad cannot make statements at random.

It is true that he hates to remain away from the bright lights for one day, but it is also true that Abu-Iyad has something else in mind and further objectives.

I tell him: Do not think that I am attacking you, or that the Egyptian press is launching a systematic and intensive campaign against you. This is a grave error in calculations. You know I love to have discussions with you. This is a continuation of our lengthy discussions in Cairo, Tunis, Beirut, and other places.

This is a discussion through which I wished to rectify some of "your" wrong ideas. Therefore, I will attempt to focus on some points.

In your statements to the British radio, there is a shameful flirtation with the United States, which, you imagine, has the ball in its court, and should act after the PLO has offered the required "flexibility."

Here I ask you: By God, has the ball been for one day out of the U.S. court, especially regarding the Palestine question?

Do you really believe that by this open flirtation and flagrant onslaught against Egypt you will enhance your standing in Washington, and make them "throw" the Egyptian mediator out on the streets, as you did?

Most frankly, if you believe so, you must be deluded. I am certain that Egypt is not against direct negotiations between the PLO and Washington.

I am certain that Egypt is not against any dialogue you yourself open with the Americans. On the contrary, Egypt encourages such a move, as it did when it "made preparations" for it in the residence of our ambassador in Tunis, 'Ali Mahir. However, looking for the lights of the press, you divulged the news. You then made an apology. Another meeting with the U.S. ambassador was arranged in the residence of Ambassador 'Ali Mahir. Again, you exposed the meeting.

Consequently, Egypt has no objections to your opening a dialogue or that you or others establish a direct relationship with America, unless you believe that you should attack Egypt first.

Here, coming from a position of friendship, I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

—It is no longer possible or acceptable for you, or anyone else, to believe that the tools of the near, or the very near past, or that the mentalities or even the feelings of the past, are good for managing or handling today's affairs and problems.

The world of petty maneuvers, disputes, and tactics is giving way to frankness and clarity. The game, the whole game, has been "exposed." All the cards are in the open and placed on the table, and room for maneuvering is becoming narrower and more limited. Shall I remind you that the biggest "crime of the age" is being committed openly and in broad daylight? How has the extensive immigration of thousands or even millions of people to our lands and homelands been arranged and carried out? It was arranged in darkness, silently and "regrettably" at the highest levels, and "also regrettably" at the highest level of licentiousness. How is it carried out and peddled?

Nevertheless, we move toward an unarmed bus and its passengers to cover this big crime with the sound of machine guns, the exploding bombs, and the cries of fear and of the "shed" blood, as if it were our fate and we had to apply its sins with our own hands. You then become angry, attack, and talk about interference in domestic affairs while you are interfering in the very core of Egypt's domestic affairs. You then play the role of a wise man, who gives his piece of advice and his wisdom to the fools and who exposes the dangers of the immigration to "forgetful Egypt," which knows nothing about what is going on!

Please allow me say that Egypt and its writers were the first to unveil that danger, to discuss it, and to warn of it. They are still doing that. I hope that brother Abu-Iyad will recall that Egypt has a population of 52 million and will have more than 70 million at the beginning of the coming century. This is not arrogance but a warning, and a strong warning.

The sudden, current danger will threaten honorable people, and we fear that the waves of immigration to the West Bank and Gaza Strip will sweep them aside. This is the crux of the problem, and any other talk is nonsense.

Brother Abu-Iyad, please allow me once again to reiterate at the end of our talk: The Palestinian revolution is facing its gravest phase of struggle and the most difficult obstacles. Confrontation requires the following:

—Getting rid of political naivete, which some of us believe to be "intelligence" or "skill," by which we the Egyptians mean complete foolishness.

—An awareness that childish revolutionary trends have ended and their brilliance no longer "deceives" anyone.

—The realization that the world is being swept by a hurricane, and it can be faced only through unification of efforts and ranks, and not by driving a wedge in Egyptian-Palestinian relations, as brother Abu-Iyad wants, even for the sake of shameful flirtations and an illegitimate or uncertain relationship with Washington.

Police Arrest 5 Jihad Members in Asyut

JN2002160790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Feb 90 p 7

[By Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] Security forces in the Interior Ministry have arrested those accused of setting fire to Mickey Video Club in Asyut. The accused are five members of the Jihad organization.

They admitted having set fire to the club because it sells and screens videotapes which violate Islam's teachings.

Sudan's Al-Bashir Arrives for Visit 20 Feb

NC2002114490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 20 Feb (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, arrived in Cairo today for a two-day visit to Egypt. President Husni Mubarak led the delegation receiving Al-Bashir at the airport.

Holds News Conference

NC2102161990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation [RCCNS], has praised Egypt's backing for the revolution in Sudan. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said his talks with President Husni Mubarak dealt with the situation in southern Sudan and the role that Egypt could play in its capacity as a fraternal country, and because President Mubarak is the current OAU chairman.

Al-Bashir made these remarks today in a news conference attended by Arab and foreign reporters.

The RCCNS chairman added that his talks with President Mubarak also covered several other topics, including how to promote cooperation between them—particularly in the economic and agricultural domains.

In response to a question on the date set for the reconciliatory conference between the government and the rebels in southern Sudan, and whether this conference will be held in Cairo, al-Bashir said no date has been set yet for these talks. He added that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation in the south.

The RCCNS chairman confirmed the presence of Israeli experts in the south and said that the rebels receive military support from Israel and Cuba. The fact that there were casualties among the Israeli experts during the military operations is evidence of this support.

The RCCNS chairman said in his news conference that there is a plan to set up an effective political organization in the country that could ensure the effective participation of the traditional and new forces in Sudan in order to achieve stability. He noted that the federal system contemplated in Sudan will have no links to the politics of the past. He pointed out that the federal system will resolve the problem of implementing the Islamic sharia laws, since the criminal codes will differ in the various Sudanese states.

Al-Bashir said since the revolution began, we have been starting to combat the corruption and negligence that were common features of the Sudanese economy. He said the private sector is now being given more opportunity to contribute to the economic process. [passage omitted]

[In an earlier, Cairo-datelined item at 1430 GMT on 21 February, Cairo MENA in Arabic says, "Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, left Cairo for home this afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, al-Bashir held important talks with his brother President Husni Mubarak on the developments in international and regional relations and on future relations between Egypt and Sudan. President Mubarak led the delegation which saw the Sudanese leader off at Cairo Airport."]

Editorial Commends UAE President's Remarks

JN2002170190 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Shaykh Zayid's Firm and Courageous Stand"]

[Text] The statements made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al- Nuhayyan, president of the United

Arab Emirates, on the Egyptian role in the Palestine question reiterate basic and clear facts on the Egyptian stand. These statements have come at this particular time in order to expose the hidden objectives of some forces that can only live on attacking Egypt through falsehoods and oneupmanship.

Shaykh Zayid's brave and honest statements are an expression of the real appreciation for the Egyptian stand, efforts, and position in the Arab world and among its nations. Egypt gained all this not by shouting and clamor, but through costly sacrifices in terms of money and martyrs.

Hence, Shaykh Zayid's recent statement in Cairo, in which he said that Egypt is the only Arab country trying to find a solution to the Palestine question, underscores the reality that he perceived as the president of a sisterly Arab country which has access to all the developments, events, and details that cannot be known by specialists, experts, and ordinary observers of events.

The statements touched on realities which are tied to the Arab and international views on the Palestine question; namely, that Egypt is practically the only one that can exert efforts and hold intensive and continuous contacts with the Palestinians, Americans, and Israelis. Shaykh Zayid also dotted the i's and crossed the t's when he called for giving Egypt full authorization to speak in the name of and on behalf of the Arabs through forming a committee representing all Arab countries so that negotiations can be held to resolve the Palestinian problem. This proposal will straighten out matters and maintain Egypt's role and position, and at the same time will enable all the Arab parties to participate in a positive and organized manner, because the Palestine question is an issue that concerns all Arabs without any discrimination.

USSR To Help Build Electricity Station

JN1902072290 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Feb p 1

[By Muhammad 'Umar]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM has learned that Egypt and the USSR have agreed to build the first joint Soviet-Egyptian electricity station with a 50 percent Egyptian contribution.

Engineers Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry, and Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity, met with the Soviet deputy minister of economic cooperation who is visiting Cairo.

It has been agreed that a committee of technical experts from the ministries of industry and electricity is to go to the Soviet Union to work out construction details. The electricity plant, to be constructed in the 'Ayn Musa district, marks the first real step toward self-sufficiency.

Minister Reports 46 AIDS Cases Discovered

JN1702160090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Feb 90 p 10

[By Faruq 'Abd-al-Majid]

[Text] A recent field survey conducted by the Ministry of Health of 30,000 subjects, including sectors which are mostly exposed to the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome [AIDS], shows that these subjects are clear of the disease. As a result of the survey, only 46 cases, which contracted the disease during surgical operations and blood transfusions, were also discovered.

During a seminar held on AIDS and blood diseases, Dr. Hasan al-Dib, first Ministry of Health under secretary, said that Egypt now has an effective network of blood testing devices to test all the blood units used in surgical operations and emergencies.

Libya

Al-Talhi Comments on U.S. Ties, Regional Affairs

JN1902220090 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Feb 90 p 8

[Interview with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, by Basimah Nafadi; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD: What point have U.S.-Libyan relations reached?

Al-Talhi: Regrettably, there has been no positive progress in Libyan-U.S. relations. We expressed the desire to end the current state of these relations. However, the other side clings to its intransigent position and shows no sign of cooperation. No decisions have been taken regarding the economic boycott or the ban on visits by Libyan citizens to the United States. This is a brief and accurate description of current relations.

AL-ITTIHAD: Have there been attempts recently to achieve a rapprochement between the Jamahiriyah and the United States through a third party?

Al-Talhi: There is a third party—without talking about a mediation—that is interested in trying to end the current situation in Washington-Tripoli relations.

AL-ITTIHAD: After the agreement between Libya and Chad, why have bilateral relations deteriorated again? Why has the agreement not been implemented?

Al-Talhi: There were important developments in these relations after the initiative declared by brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU. That initiative should have settled all differences between the two countries peacefully and with the release of all prisoners. After this initiative, many developments took place; relations were restored, diplomatic missions were exchanged, Libya released Chadian prisoners, direct contacts were

enhanced, delegations were exchanged, and a joint committee was set up to push relations forward. Then there was the important step of signing a brotherhood agreement last year to specify methods for settling differences and to promote cooperation. Regrettably, there was no actual progress in implementation of this agreement, although the joint committee entrusted with following up implementation held many meetings in Tripoli and Ndjamena. But, there was no actual progress. I can say that the Libyan side is very interested in honoring its obligations and is ready to implement them. Regrettably, however, the Chadian side has not shown the same commitment. Moreover, it did not create the right atmosphere or proper climate for the implementation of these agreements. Perhaps the statements and accusations that are being made prove what I am saying.

AL-ITTIHAD: What about relations between the Jamahiriyah and the PLO, and Libya's possible role in achieving PLO unity and securing the return of the factions that left the PLO?

Al-Talhi: Relations are brotherly and excellent. This is proved by the visits and frequent meetings between the brother leader and president Yasir 'Arafat, who visited Tripoli recently. Relations, as I said, are excellent. Concerning the second part of the question, Libya sees the importance of Palestinians rallying around the PLO and in steering all efforts in the right direction.

AL-ITTIHAD: Is there a specific Libyan role in returning some factions to the PLO?

Al-Talhi: I have no information about that.

AL-ITTIHAD: What is Libya's viewpoint on the solution to Soviet Jewish immigration into Israel and settlement in the occupied Arab territories?

Al-Talhi: Certainly, this issue is very serious. Statements made by the Zionist entity's officials reveal the direct objective behind settling large numbers of immigrants at the expense of the people of Palestine, which constitutes the first step in a larger expansion at the expense of the Arab presence in the region. These are the principles and goals of Zionism that are based on usurpation and occupation. We know that the Zionist entity's declared objective is not what it occupies now, but what it may expand into in the future.

As I said, the issue is very serious and must be met with an Arab position that corresponds to its seriousness. If we study it carefully we will observe, regrettably, that this issue—the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union—was raised long ago by the United States, which set it as a condition for improving its relations with the Soviet Union and for international detente in general. Its conditions were met and it finally succeeded in making the Soviet Union allow this emigration. After that, it decided last year to prevent the Jewish emigrants from entering the United States. Naturally, this resulted in thousands of those people leaving for Palestine. What is more, it helped the Zionist entity settle those people in the occupied territories and flooded it with funds and weapons. Hence, we can see the real dimensions of the conspiracy. I believe the direct and indirect objectives in all this are very clear and call for a unified Arab position that rises to the level of those facts in order to face those responsible for them.

AL-ITTIHAD: Does it call for an emergency Arab summit, especially as one has now been proposed?

Al-Talhi: Let it be done in any way. What is important is the result.

AL-ITTIHAD: Does this mean you support an emergency summit?

Al-Talhi: We have not discussed it yet. In principle, however, we support everything that will help bring about a unified Arab position in facing this serious matter.

AL-ITTIHAD: What can we say about Libyan-Soviet relations in view of the current developments in the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc?

Al-Talhi: Libya always seeks to build good relations with everyone—whether this or that country was socialist or capitalist, in the East or West—as long as it is prepared to cooperate within the framework of mutual respect, non-interference in domestic affairs, and respect for each party's choices.

We build our relations on these basis and we cooperate with everyone. We are always concerned for the independence of our decision-making and identity, and we do not want any suggestion of subservience. Our relations with the Soviet Union are of this kind, and even if there were any changes in the Soviet Union, we believe that as long as these bases and relations are respected, there will be no adverse effects. Within this framework, we are prepared to cooperate with everybody.

AL-ITTIHAD: The East European upheavals have had their repercussions on the Arab states. For instance, Czechoslovakia has announced that it will not sell any more arms to Arab countries. Other East European nations have restored ties with Israel. How do you think we should react?

Al-Talhi: There certainly are fundamental changes, but we need not be alarmed. There is no doubt that the changes have shaken many givens established since World War II. It is equally certain that the new developments require a reformulation of international relations. This is the way of the world, like it or not. It will always be the case that the weaker party will be left out from rewriting the scenarios of international politics. Unfortunately, the Arab nation, that has in the past paid dearly as a result of such changes—for example as happened between the two world wars, will now also pay a heavy price! Unless of course, it acts before it is too late. If we succeed in closing ranks, others will treat us with due respect. It is up to us, first and foremost. But if things

should stay unchanged, I fear that we will again pay a heavy price as we have in the past.

AL-ITTIHAD: President Mubarak has reportedly had contacts with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in connection with coordination between the three Arab groupings—the Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Cooperation Council. Is the report true, and what are the prospects for such coordination within the framework of the Arab League?

Al-Talhi: I am not aware of the content of the telephone conversation between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi. Regarding coordination between the three Arab councils, as you know a resolution by the first summit of the Arab Maghreb Union urged coordination with the other two councils. The Arab Maghreb Union's secretariat was charged with making the necessary contacts.

AL-ITTIHAD: What is the state of Egyptian-Libyan relations, and when will President al-Qadhdhafi make his expected visit to Cairo? When will the People's Bureau be opened in the Egyptian capital, and how is this going to get around the problem of the presence of an Israeli Embassy?

Al-Talhi: I think this question was answered during President Mubarak's visit to Tubruq. President al-Qadhdhafi is of the opinion that relations between the two peoples and the political will in the two countries must weigh heavily in this regard. The question of the presence of an Israeli Embassy thus becomes a matter of form that ought not to count for much in light of the bonds between the two countries. Despite the absence of embassies, I can tell you without reserve that our relations are excellent. Delegations from the two countries have been exchanging visits, and the meetings that have been taking place at close intervals between the leaders of the two countries are testimony to the state of our relations.

AL-ITTIHAD: And how are relations between Libya and Sudan?

Al-Talhi: Our relations are good and there is nothing to sour them.

Sudan

Agricultural Cooperation Discussed With Libyans

EA1902072490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Feb (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Libyan talks headed by Minister of Agriculture 'Ali Ahmad Qunays and Secretary General of Libyan Popular Committee for Agricultural Development Musa Abu-Frara started here today. The talks discussed the framework of cooperation in the agricultural and animal resources spheres in accordance with a strategy leads to [words indistinct] (?cooperation) between the two countries.

Prof. Qunays said the visit of the Libyan delegation to Sudan aimed at following up delegations started last November and resulted in signing the Sudanese-Libyan protocol for agricultural cooperation. He described the talks as a good start for fruitful cooperation between the two countries. The minister of agriculture pointed out that the Libyans would centre in the field of animal resource as start for cooperation and they will hold talks with Sudanese officials in this regard.

The chairman of the Libyan delegation said cooperation with Sudan came within an Arab strategy aimed at achieving food self-sufficiency.

The Libyan delegation is expected to leave tomorrow for the northern region al-Jazira scheme in addition to some animal resources institutions and corporations.

Al-Bashir Addresses Armed Forces in Juba

EA1502083490 Juba Sudan Domestic Service in Arabic 1440 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Speech by Revolution Command Council Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir to officers and men of the Armed Forces in Juba; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Audacious soldiers, God's peace, mercy and blessing be upon you. Truly, I am very happy that I managed to visit you today, meet you, salute your [word indistinct], all the combatant brothers stationed in all positions, in Western Equatoria, in Juba, in Bahr al-Ghazal, in Upper Nile, in Southern Kurdufan, in southern Blue Nile, in Darfur—I salute all of them [words indistinct] Armed Forces everywhere, especially here in Equatoria, you have undertaken a great task. (?You have taught) the outlaws a lesson, and it appeared that the (?force) of the outlaws was a little bit bigger. Yet they were given a lesson in Blue Nile, in Upper Nile, in Bahr al-Ghazal, and I think the last lecture was given to them in Equatoria. [applause] After that (?you may award them) doctorate certificates in stupidity, treachery and lack of nationalism. [applause]

I am sure that you are ready because if the people saw (?if this were screened on the TV), people would not believe it. People outside say: Well, Juba is besieged, Juba will fall, what will Juba eat? They brought [word indistinct], they brought planes to evacuate the whites, all these meant a psychological war [words indistinct] we know you, by God, [word indistinct], and thank God? [passage indistinct] [applause]

We have battled the outlaws, by God, this month, the outlaws—the launcher, kalashnikov [words indistinct]. [applause] Now your brother shot at a tank while on his feet—a T-55 tank. They brought tanks so that when the people heard that they had brought tanks, people would start running away from them, without knowing that

people here were brothers of sisters [as heard], complete young people [words indistinct]. [applause] [passage omitted]

What do we fear? If we fear death, then (?we also) fear the movement. If there is a reason to fear death, then we have been threatened by death, we have tried it and seen it, and we have fought the rebels and tried them. I say this today and tomorrow. [Words indistinct] some forces are coming and going, then they announced that we, by God, had attacked. Like our brothers from Kajo Kaji [words indistinct] they fought, defended [word indistinct]. [applause]

You have heard the outlaws' radio, London radio saying that (?there) are 2,000 [as heard] in Kajo Kaji. How many forces were in Kajo Kaji? They can't say that. They can't say (?there were 95). They said there was a brigade in Kajo Kaji, and today there are 2,000, and the fifth column in Khartoum in their pamphlets write this [words indistinct]. [applause]

We didn't come for (?war), but we came for the sake of this homeland, and we are ready to die. We do not fear anybody, nor anything, and we never came to establish a personal office, not even when we came on (?Friday, 30 June) [words indistinct] we didn't (?know whether the coup) would be 100 percent successful [words indistinct]. Our objective was not to establish a personal office, and until now, it is a lie if anyone says we have established a personal office.

(?We all) get equal salaries in the Army. Nobody came with something. [sentence as heard] [applause] Even when the land distribution came, they said these ones were members of the council, they should get it through their leadership ranks. We (?thanked them), and said no [words indistinct]. We came for the sake of the homeland. [passage omitted] [Words indistinct] The protection of the homeland, defense of the homeland, defense of honor and maganimity, and we are able, God willing. The losses you have caused the outlaws until now since the battle of Kajo Kaji began, can never be narrated, and nobody can talk of [applause]. Then we say something: In fact the rebels did not achieve what they achieved—it is only through the neglect of the Armed Forces by the former government. [applause] [passage omitted]

We shall fight, because the war has been imposed on us. But we shall also [words indistinct]. We haven't attacked. [passage omitted]

The period since we came in is only seven months [words indistinct]. And these (?95) from Kajo Kaji, I challenge any (?95) from among the outlaws to come, stay in a station and I will send them a platoon. It they (?managed) them in half an hour, we would take over this country. [appaluse] With their battalions, launchers, and they have T-55 tanks to threaten us with. [Word indistinct] was taken away from them, and tomorrow we shall take from them the launchers, tanks and we shall chase them away from the country, if the war is imposed. [passage indistinct] [applause] But [word indistinct] time, if peace is achieved [word indistinct] time, but if this war which is imposed on us is continued, clearly [words indistinct]. We, God willing, are able.

Any war, whatever the case, is destructive, but sometimes when you have nothing [words indistinct] to stop the war. (?But now) we want peace, so as to build our country, because it has been destroyed, and the people are [word indistinct] this country because they are [word indistinct] outside. They are living in hotels and their children are studying in America, enjoying themselves and they have [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

I wish you success and peace, high morale [words indistinct] and the losses you have inflicted on them (?the utlaws) in the short period—maybe they have never witnessed such losses in their history. Pull your socks up and God [word indistinct] we are behind you and all (?the masses are) behind you. God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.

Al-Bashir Cites War as Reason for Takeover

EA2002219390 Khartoum SUNA in English 0924 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, Command Council chairman, said one of the main reasons behind the takeover in the country was "the imposed war in the south". General Al-Bashir said the war in the south costs Sudan millions of Sudanese pounds every day and claims the lives of many a martyr from the Armed Forces.

Gen Al-Bashir, addressing a mass gathering in Khawjalab area, north of Khartoum, said thousands of civilians were also killed in the war only to satisfy "the desires of the agents, hirelings and traitors" who sold themselves and dignity to foreign circles.

SPLA Accuses Government of 'Reprisal' Arrests

EA2102205690 (Clandestine) Radio of Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Feb

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] cells inside Juba and Malakal have reported that the authorities in those two towns have arrested and detained many officials who have been serving under them.

Eighteen citizens have been detained in Juba following the shelling of Juba by the Bright Star Campaign forces. While in Malakal, a large number of people have been arrested after units of SPLA forces carried out a night raid into the town of Malakal on 2nd February 1990.

Commenting on the arrest and detention of these innocent citizens, the spokesman of SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] said the junta's reprisal of the casualties they suffered during the raid into Malakal and the shelling of Juba is a further confirmation of their policies of genocide and desperate and mindless acts to suit their demoralized soldiers.

Meanwhile reliable sources from Juba have reported that fighting broke out between elements of the police and elements of the so-called Allah Akhbar convoy, and that was on February 12th, 1990, between Juba and Lanya. In the fighting, two were killed and several injured. Those killed were L/C Ahmad al-Nasr, of the Army, military number 290229 and policeman, Dario Murjan.

The policemen accompanying the so-called Allah Akhbar are reported to have protested the unequal distribution of food, allowances, and general treatment and scorn of the police.

The dispute threatened to involve nationality problem within the Allah Akhbar convoy verging on mutiny, and this was put down in a shoot-out resulting in the death of the two and injury of others. The so-called Allah Akhbar convoy is now stranded in Kagwada, and SPLA is closely monitoring it.

SPLA Reports Khartoum to Name New Party

EA2002235990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Reliable sources within the National Islamic Front [NIF] in Khartoum revealed that a meeting was held on Friday, 9 February 1990, in the house of the head of popular committees of Umm Dawm [residential area in Khartoum], Jirrayi area. The meeting discussed the name of a new political party to govern the country, and will be the only legal party in the country. Those who attended this meeting were:

1. Representative of the junta;

2. Representative of the trade union's;

3. Representative of the women's union;

4. Representative of the shura [consultative] council of the NIF;

5. Representative of 40-man Council of the Armed Forces;

6. Minister of cabinet affairs;

7. Minister of culture and information; and,

8. Chairman of the military junta.

The new name of the [political party] was suggested to be the national salvation front. The name was rejected by Mahdi Ibrahim, secretary of foreign relations in the NIF, and the representative in the defunct assembly for Hillah Khawjali constituency.

Mahdi Ibrahim told the chairman of the junta this new party should not be called the national salvation front. Dr Abdallah al-Turabi, secretary general of the NIF, also rejected the new name for the party. They said if the new party is not given another name—they had previously agreed that the NIF is the basic or official party of the country [sentence as received].

This views was seconded by Colonel Sulayman, chairman of the Information Committee of the junta. Lastly, the chairman of the junta asked them what they have found other than the proposed name of the new party they were rejected.

Mahdi Ibrahim told him that the name NIF is the name they have which has been agreed upon by the Central Committee and branch committees in the whole Sudan. This name was rejected by the soldiers in the meeting.

The source revealed that there is now disagreement between the soldiers and the civilians of the NIF. Other senior members of the NIF who attended the meeting include: Hasan Muhammad Ali, secretary of finance in the Sudan workers' trade union and member of the junta security; Zaynab Bashir, representative of the women's trade union and official of Faysal Islamic Bank; another unnamed woman from Upper Nile representing the south; Lieutenant Colonel Isma'il Salah of the Air Defence Forces; Jabal Awliya, who is also representative of the 40-man military council and secretary general of the popular committees. All those who attended this meeting are cadres of the NIF.

We are still following this series of meetings. Our sources revealed that the junta will declare the formation of the new party next week.

SUNA Technical Rehabilitation Plans Under Way

EA2102093690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0926 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Feb (SUNA)—Efforts are under way for technical rehabilitation of the Sudan NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) through three projects, according to Culture and Information Minister 'Ali Shummu.

The minister, presenting a working paper on information at the national information conference Monday, [19 February], said the first project aims at the modernisation of the transmission, reception, and radio monitoring systems within the agency, in addition to introduction of computer for processing, storing and transmitting news items.

He said the second project provides for setting up a communication network between SUNA head office in Khartoum and the different information organs and the ministries, companies, banks, and other interested institutions.

He said the third project aims at expanding the communication network between SUNA head office in Khartoum and the capitals of the regions and at linking the regional capitals to each other so as to ensure a continued exchange and flow of news.

Western Sahara

Prime Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

LD2102104890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Interview with Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) Prime Minister 'Ali Beiba by correspondent Abdelmoumen Dekkar in the SDAR Embassy, Algiers, on 20 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abdelmoumen Dekkar] We welcome you, Saharan Premier Mr. 'Ali Beiba, and begin our interview from Algiers where you have recently held talks with some emerging political parties in Algeria. We would like to know the conclusion or impression you have gained after these meetings.

['Ali Beiba] First, I had the honor of meeting most of the leaders of the political parties in Algeria. These were the first meetings. Naturally, the objective behind holding talks and meetings was to build future relations with these parties which constitute part of the political force in the Maghreb arena. [passage omitted] The parties agree on some fundamental issues: First, on the need to settle the Saharan problem in order to concentrate on and truly start building the Maghreb edifice; second, on the Saharan people's firm right to self-determination and independence; and third, on seeking a solution on the basis of the UN and OAU efforts and resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Dekkar] Mr. 'Ali Beiba, how do you assess the situation in Western Sahara, and the conflict in general?

[Beiba] The Western Saharan conflict is entering its 16th or 17th year, and this in itself is a long time of struggle, suffering, and bloodshed. The economy has been destroyed. There is also complete clarity about the facts concerning the Saharan problem. Moroccan propaganda has not been able to conceal or suppress it. There is a problem; it is that of a people struggling for its independence and right to exist, and this is regarded as a case of liquidating colonialism. Therefore, it cannot be resolved or settled without starting from the basic premise of solving these problems. The other issue is quite clear; Western Sahara remains the last colony in Africa, and this especially gives it significance in a region considered very important. On the other hand, UN and OAU efforts are continuing for the fourth year. There is also going to be a deactivation, since the mission of the previous special representative of the UN secretary general has ended. This means that he will visit the region very soon. Therefore, there is continuing interest. [passage omitted]. Unfortunately, there is a clash with the intransigent and unyielding position of the Moroccan side, which will not change spontaneously. It will only change when all positive elements are completed which will in themselves constitute pressure on the Moroccan side.

As far as the Saharans are concerned, I believe that they remain optimistic, but they are also prepared to continue their struggle until we reach substantial results with the other side so that we will be able to start rapid, sincere, and substantial efforts to seek peace in this region. Our wish is that 1990 will be a year of peace and a decisive year in finding a final solution to this problem, which has been obstructing Moroccan and Saharan efforts, and also obstructing the efforts of the region in general, for future development.

[Dekkar] On the same subject, Mr. 'Ali Beida, the new UN envoy responsible for the Western Sahara conflict will return to the region to continue the UN peace efforts. What do you expect from this new mission?

[Beiba] In fact we welcome the appointment of a new representative. This in itself indicates the secretary general's increasing and continuing interest. The visit is also important because it coincides with a true Saharan will to cooperate with the UN and the OAU, but particularly because we have made this year a year of peace and true progress in facilitating the mission of the UN and the OAU. I hope that the change of the UN secretary general's representative will be met by a change in the Moroccan position; a true and sincere wish and a substantial move to turn words into practice in order to achieve progress in solving this problem. In fact, the framework exists; the United Nations and the OAU, and the basis exist; the United Nations and the OAU's recommendations. What is left is the will to achieve progress. Will this visit have an impact on the Moroccan will? Because the Saharan will is truly there. This is all that I hope for.

[Dekkar] Mr. 'Ali Beiba, will the UN envoy visit the liberated Saharan territories?

[Beiba] Naturally, the special envoy will visit all the regions. He will visit the refugee camps which are under the administration of the Saharan Republic. Also, the UN secretary general will also visit the region in the future.

[Dekkar] A last question. What is the situtation regarding the Moroccan prisoners who were released by the Polisario?

[Beiba] They are still waiting for the Moroccan authorities' permission to join their families and return to their country. Therefore, concerning their return to their country, there has been no further development but the efforts of the International Red Cross are continuing. There was a new development two or three days ago, which was the recommendation adopted by the European Parliament. The recommendation urges European governments to make moves to [words indistinct] those 200 prisoners to their families and country. I hope the efforts will be fruitful, especially because they coincide with official and unofficial European interest in human rights in Morocco and the Western Sahara. Therefore, I believe that Amnesty International's visit to Morocco two days ago will have a great impact on bringing forth this issue. [passage omitted]

[Dekkar] Many thanks, Mr. 'Ali Beiba, for responding to the national radio's invitation. I hope to meet you again.

Kuwait

U.S.-Flagged Tanker Burns After Explosion

LD2202122390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1206 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] An explosion occurred aboard a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker called "Surf City" this morning in the Gulf. Fire broke out in the tanker and now is burning off the Sharjah coast.

News agencies report that all crewmen were rescued, but thus far we have not been able to find out the reasons for the explosion and whether there were victims. The Kuwaiti tanker reportedly was escorted by a U.S. missile frigate.

Al-'Usaymi Receives Message From Iran's Velayati

LD2102144190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1107 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Feb (KUNA)—Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, at noon today received a written message for the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, from the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velaya ti.

The message was delivered by the ambassador of Iran in Kuwait, Hoseyn Sadeqi, during his reception by Minister al-'Usaymi in the latter's office at the ministry.

It has been learned the message concerns bilateral relations and developments in the region.

PDRY

Central Committee Session Issues Communique

EA1902064490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Feb 90

["Text" of press communique on the 19th session of the Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP, Central Committee which ended on 15 February]

[Excerpts] The YSP Central Committee conducted its 19th ordinary session from 10-15 February chaired by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, in which a great number of the members of the Presidium, the Council of Ministers, leaders of party organizations and the Armed Forces in the governorates, heads of departments in the Central Committee Secretariat, and a number of officials in other organs participated.

The session dealt with a number of fundamental issues, the most important of which is the document on comprehensive political and economic reform. The Central Committee endorsed the document, viewing it as an integral political, economic, social, and cultural program, aiming at democratic [word indistinct] of the social structure from top to bottom. It also paves the way toward cementing the unity of our Yemeni homeland, as well as continuing to consolidate the achievements and attain the national and democratic goals of the Yemeni revolution. In the light of discussing the document's program of implemention, the Central Committee made a number of fundamental decisions in various spheres—economic, social, political, and cultural.

In the economic and social spheres, the Central Committee decided to raise the salaries of workers, employees, and cadres in state organs, as well as government parastatals, cooperatives, Armed Forces personnel security establishments, the families of martyrs and the retired, to a maximum of 16 dinars, for the lower scale [word indistinct] minimum of 8 dinars of the upper scale. It also stressed evaluating the basic regulations on insurance according to the applied rules would continue, as would the state subsidy for the prices of goods and basic commodities needed by citizens. [passage omitted]

On studying the state of the economic establishments and the role of the workers in them, the Central Committee entrusted the government with studying ways the workers could own a percentage of the capital of the establishments and companies and [word indistinct] the workers in the running of the establishments and companies, as well as ensuring their direct and active participation in the promotion of the establishments to ensure an increase in their productivity, toward realizing self-administration for those establishments. [passage omitted]

On the political system, the Central Committee stressed the continuation of the process of deepening the exercise of democracy in political, social, and economic life, as well as the promotion of the democratic structure and activity and the strengthening of its democratic nature. In this connection, the Central Committee endorsed the principal of separation between the jurisdictions in the framework of the state bodies, and the formation of a supreme constitutional body for safeguarding the Constitution and maintaining law and order. [passage omitted]

To implement the resolution adopted by the 18th Central Committee Session concerning rehabilitation of all patriotic elements and forces which struggled against British colonialism and its local puppets, as well as all patriotic elements who are sincere in their adherence to the principles and objectives of the Yemeni revolution and who were harmed by incorrect ways of solving disputes by the national alliance forces since national independence, and ensuring their right to participate in the general political life in the country, the Central Committee approved the basis of rehabilitation submitted to it by the Political Bureau and ordered taking quick, practical measures for the rehabilitation of anyone to whom the measures apply. The Central Committee stressed the importance of issuing a general amnesty. [passage omitted]

On the internal life of the party and its role in the political system, the Central Committee adopted a series of measures aimed at restructuring party organizations according to the new conditions of party work, consolidating internal democracy, broadening the party's social base, and creating the necessary conditions for upgrading the party's role in the political system by means of dialogue and persuasion, desisting from authoritarian methods and working for [word indistinct] creative cooperation with all other patriotic and democratic forces.

Concerning the unionist activity between the two parts, the Central Committee commended the achievements realized in this field towards the implementation of the two historical accords, the Yemen accords and the Sanaa declaration, and the realization of the aspired unity. The Central Committee appreciated the positive result which emerged from the joint meeting of the Council of Ministers of the two parts and the work of the other unionist committees. It stressed the need to continue efforts to guarantee the realization of what remained of the unionist committees' work to insure realization of Yemeni unity on schedule.

Regarding this, the Central Committee stressed the importance of the continued meetings between the leadership of the two parts and their efforts towards realizing this great goal. It pointed to the importance of the joint work for spreading democracy and safeguarding the masses' active participation, and that of their patriotic and democratic forces, in building the lofty edifice of the united state and to defend it and confront the forces hostile to unity.

At the end of its session, the Central Communitee expressed concern about the increasing immigration of Jews to the occupied Arab territories. It condemned the Zionist authorities' efforts to settle Soviet Jews and other immigrants in the occupied Arab terrritories, affirming that is likely to hamper peace efforts and the efforts exerted to settle the Middle East problem and its essence—the Palestinian issue.

The Central Committee renewed our country's stand, which supports the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, led by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, for restoring their full legitimate rights to return and establish their independent state on Palestinian national soil.

The Central Committee appealed to the parliaments and governments in various countries of the world to oppose all the Israeli settlement plans and prevent their implementation.

The Central Committee also expressed its solidarity with the South African people's struggle against the policy of racial discrimination. It saluted the steadfastness of the African militant and leader, Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, who was released after 20 years in the prisons of the racist regime in South Africa, pointing out that event is regarded as a new victory added to the fund of victories along the road of abolishing the racist regime and consolidating the legitimate rights of the people of South Africa.

Council Chairman, World Bank Official Confer

EA2102080090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Yemen Socialist Party Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today at noon at the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers met Mr. (Argel), director of the Middle East Department at the World Bank.

Issues of cooperation between Democratic Yemen and the bank were reviewed, as well as finding ways for strengthening relations between the two sides through an increase in the bank's contribution to a number of development projects in our country.

Dr. Nu'man expressed appreciation at the level of cooperation existing between Democratic Yemen and the bank, stressing the importance of strengthening the success which had been achieved in this direction and of increasing the bank's contribution to a number of projects concerned with economic and social developments in our country.

Dr. Ja'far Hamid. deputy minister for planning, and a number of relevant officials attended.

United Arab Emirates

Romanian Official on Gulf Visit, Investment

JN2202085090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 2

[By 'Imad Ghunaym]

[Excerpt] Jan Emil Vasiliu, Romanian deputy trade and industry minister, has declared his country received positive indications about Gulf investment in Romania. He said he soon expects offers on definite Gulf projects for Romania.

In a statement yesterday he said the Romanian delegation now visiting several Arab and Gulf states has met with great understanding concerning the importance of increased investments in Romania in the near future.

The Romanian official said his country is concerned about the continuing negotiations to set up a factory for the assembly of four-wheel drive Aro [as published] automobiles in the duty free zone. He explained delayed implementation of this project goes back to technical studies and has nothing to do with politics.

He pointed out Romania is interested in bolstering trade and economic relations with Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, and in benefitting from the wide experience of Dubayy businessmen to develop the Romanian private sector.

Regarding the possibility of oil cooperation between the Gulf and Romania, the official explained his country,

despite being an oil-producing nation, has resorted to importing oil to meet its needs. He added the possibility of importing Gulf oil is there, provided comfortable sale conditions and prices are agreed upon.

He noted so far there are no Gulf investments in Romania; there are offers from Europe and the United States to invest there. He said his country is interested in investments that could meet demands for heating oil, food products, and electrical appliances, provided they move on to producing more luxury goods afterwards.

He explained there is a foreign investment law in Romania. There also is a policy to expand the provisions of this law, including granting foreign investment guarantees.

On the possibility of Romanian currency changing to a convertible one, the official said there are efforts in this direction, currently concentrating on unifying exchange rates. Getting to a state of complete free-floating, however, will take time, considering the huge economic difficulties his country is facing. [passage omitted]

Syria-Israel Contacts Seen as 'Conspiratorial'

JN2202104790 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 22, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad has confirmed that the Zionist entity and Syrian regime coordinate their efforts nowadays to prepare for new conspiratorial scheme against the Arab nations, aim at the entire pan-Arab security.

In its article published today the paper referred to news reports published in Europe recently on a meeting held between representatives of the Syrian regime and Zionist entity in Vienna to discuss bilateral relations.

These reports confirmed that the Syrian-Zionist contacts held during the past four months in Vienna receive Hafiz al-Asad and Yitzh Shamir's support.

The paper stressed that the Arab nation is capable of foiling all plots hatched by all hostile circles, referring in this regard to the Syrian regime's sinister alliance with the Iranian regime throughout 8-year-old war imposed by the Iranian regime against Iraq.

Paper Ridicules Syrian Abolition of Martial Law

JN2102125690 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 21, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has scoffed at the Syrian regime's alleged lifting of martial law as a desperate bid to beautify its bloody reputation.

In a commentary published here today, the paper said that terrorism, torture, oppression and killing had been, and were still, going on for more than 20 years. Military tribunals are still passing coercive sentences and oppressive bodies are still as they are, it pointed.

Confirming falsity of the Syrian regime's claims, AL-THAWRAH disclosed that the Syrian regime had not aired an official declaration on the alleged measures, nor a date fixed for putting into effect such a cancellation.

Editorial Stresses 'Firm Commitments' to Peace

JN2102111390 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 21, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad stressed that it is necessary that new efforts exerted in the U.N. for resuming Iraq-Iran direct peace negotiations should be coupled with seriousness, conforms with the importance of engineering peace in the region. [sentence as received]

In its editorial published today, the paper said that the period after the ceasefire came into effect on August 20, 1988, proved that the General Assembly of the U.N. entrusted with implementing the Security Council Resolution No. 598, did not pay enough attention to gravity of the Iranian manoeuvres aiming at crippling the process of peace and wasting time in abnormal state, namely the state of no-war no-peace.

The paper further said that the U.N. General Assembly should have to publicly declare Iran's violation of the August 8 agreement calling for conducting direct negotiations between representatives of Iraqi and Iranian sides. It is certain that such a step is capable of putting an end to Iran's evasion versus the direct talks.

The paper referred to the news items that the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council permanent member-states have perceived the necessity of holding a meeting between representatives of Iraq and Iran in a direct negotiating dialogue.

The paper confirmed Iraq's readiness to carry out its firm commitments toward the issue of peace, without any tendency for having gains as for its military victory.

Inner Cabinet To Dictate Arens' U.S. Moves

TA2102121290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The Inner Cabinet meeting was preceded by a session of the forum of three, namely the forum of four minus Foreign Minister Arens [who is in Mexico]. The three discussed the upcoming Friday meeting between Secretary of State Baker and Foreign Minister Arens.

The Alignment ministers made it clear they would demand the foreign minister not be authorized to respond negatively to Baker on the question of including of deportees or East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation.

[A report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on page A1 of the 21 February of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew adds "Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin have decided to demand Shamir instruct Arens to limit the topic for discussion" with Baker to "discussion of the U.S. assurances, and to forbid him to reject the inclusion of deportees or East Jerusalem representatives in the Palestinian delegation." Eldar notes, however, that "political sources have said Arens would be able to base himself on the precedent established during Rabin's meeting with Baker, during which these ideas were discussed favorably." Eldar points out the Labor Party contends Minister Ehud Olmert "was sent to Washington to circumvent the limitations that will be imposed on Arens. Olmert has several political meetings scheduled with Vice President Dan Quayle, senators, and senior State Department officials." The Labor leaders reportedly fear "Olmert will win another time-out period for Shamir, leading to further delays in the tripartite foreign ministers meeting and the meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations."]

A complete blackout was imposed on the content of the meeting, but political sources have reported that, because he was told very plainly before his departure, the foreign minister is clearly aware of the fact he does not have a mandate to make any kind of commitment to Baker. He only is to hear the other side's positions. [Eldar also adds "Jerusalem expects Baker to ask Arens to make sure Israel delivers its responses to the compromise proposals as soon as possible, so he will can summon the foreign ministers for a meeting early next month, during which he will present the agreements on the principles that will govern composition of the delegations, the level of their participants, terms for the inclusion of outside observers"—including Soviet observers—"and a detailed timetable."]

The issue also was broached in the Inner Cabinet, which dealt mainly with security-related issues. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked the prime minister the following: We have heard Minister Arens is about to confer with Secretary Baker. Is it true a meeting indeed will take place, and what will he say and do? Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir replied a meeting was very likely, but during that meeting, Arens will hear things he later will relay to Israel. Whatever he relays will be decided upon in the Inner Cabinet, Shamir said.

The Alignment ministers currently are in session to discuss the political and other issues.

Peres: 'Positive' Arab Answers Prompted Deadline

TA2202060990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau meets today to discuss yesterday's decision by the party masters to set a two- to three-week deadline for the Likud to move on the peace process. Labor Party sources say today's meeting will try to draft a concrete proposal which could amount to an ultimatum to the Likud.

They said Labor is pressing for Palestinian deportees to be allowed to participate in a delegation to negotiate with Israel. The Voice of Israel's political affairs correspondent says that Labor leaders Peres and Rabin have indicated that they have received positive answers from the Arab side on three of the points that have been holding up the peace process. The issues concern the inclusion of Palestinian deportees, the makeup of the Palestinian delegation, an announcement on the talks with Israel to be made by Egypt, and the agenda for a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians.

Last night, speaking to the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, Peres explained why his party has now set two weeks for a decision on the talks:

[Begin Peres recording] We say in two weeks we have to decide. Why? There are two or three basic reasons; one has to do with the Israeli democracy. We have today a clear majority in the parliament for the continuation of the peace process. A clear majority. What happened is there was a change of heart, thank heavens, in the religious camp. That was number one. But there is another reason, ladies and gentlemen. The leadership of our party arrived to the conclusion that we've got more or less satisfactory answers on three or four major issues that were outstanding until now between the Palestinians and ourselves: a) the composition of the Palestinian delegation. We have agreed that this delegation will be a non-PLO delegation, coming from the territories, that may comprise one or two deportees and may comprise one or two of the Palestinians who reside in Jerusalem and have an additional address somewhere else. It looks that the Likud is very touchy on the issue of Jerusalem. I can hardly understand why, because if they say we are not going to give back land, what does it mean: If there is somebody from Hebron, they are ready to give back Hebron? [end recording]

Soviet Part in Pea Peace Process Hinges on Relations

TA2102122190 Jeru Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 9eb 90 p 1

[Report by David Mid Makovsky]

[Text] The Soviet Uet Union will be eligible to play a serious role in an Israeli-Pa-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo as soon as it renews diplomatimatic relations with Israel, Vice Premier Shim'on Peres told told THE JERUSALEM POST.

He made the statenatement in response to recent comments by Soviet Premier Mier Nikolay Ryzhkov that the Soviets are willing to renew diw diplomatic ties with Israel once such a dialogue begins.

Peres said that a mo move to restore full relations with Israel would "provide the the Soviets with an opportunity to directly contribute tute to the peace process that will open in Cairo." He indicateicated that he was presenting the Labour Party's position in fi in favouring the inclusion of the Soviets in the proposed Cai Cairo talks.

Peres pointed to Ro Ryzhkov's comments, made during a recent trip to AustAustralia, as being among the clearest indications to date tate that the Soviets have definite plans to restore in the near near future the ties that they severed in 1967.

However, officials ials in the Prime Minister's Office have indicated during thg the last few weeks that they would not want the Soviets tets to be part of any Israeli-Palestinian dialogue even if thef the Kremlin renewed ties. The officials pointed out that thet the Soviets have consistently sided with Syria and the PLO,'LO, and therefore Israel could place no faith in Soviet diplodiplomacy.

Labour sources said said that the Prime Minister's Office has been wrongly accusccusing a key Soviet diplomat, Deputy Foreign Minister Ger Gennadiy Tarasov, of being partially responsible for the dthe decision to bow to Arab pressure and bar direct flights to ls to Israel for at least the next two to three months.

According to these ese sources, Tarasov favours closer ties with Israel, and Sha Shamir is to blame for the Soviet ban on direct flights whichhich followed his statement that a "big Israel" is needed to d to absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants.

New Shamir 'ManManeuverability' May Help Peace

TA2102145290 Tel .Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Feb peb p 3

[Commentary by Sby Shim'on Schiffer: "Shamir's Maneuverability Has Increncreased"]

[Text] Yitzhaq SharShamir's maneuverability has increased with the resignationation of Ari'el Sharon from the Cabinet and after Sharon's on's "estate" was divided between three figures belonging tog to the Shamir-Arens camp.

If the prime ministenister decides to promote his eponymous political initiative (ive (the elections in the territories), he now will find it easier to do so. Shamir has the guaranteed support of Minister Moshe Qatzav, who has now joined the Inner Cabinet, and Messrs Levi and Moda'i will be more isolated than in the past, however vocal they become in Cabinet sessions.

And on Friday, when Foreign Minister Arens meets his U.S. counterpart in Washington, it will become clear whether James Baker is also convinced that this is the political situation in Israel, and that it is time to test the changes that have taken place in the Likud's political setup and move the peace process another step forward.

Shamir's coterie could not conceal their glee at David Levi's anger Shamir did not consult him before deciding upon the new nominations to the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet. "Shamir will continue his attempts to bring Levi closer," Shamir's intimates crowed, barely stifling their laughter, adding that "They deserve what they received because Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i made Shamir's life hell for a whole year."

But the joy in Shamir's camp may prove premature. It still remains to be seen how Moda'i's attempt to establish a new faction in the Knesset will end.

One thing is clear: The hard core of the national unity government, the unwritten pact between Shamir and Rabin, may emerge strengthened from the latest crisis. The devolution of power within the Likud to the younger princes [Ministers Olmert, Meridor, and Milo] has acquired greater momentum as a result of the recent developments.

As for the political process, the Inner Cabinet will not face pressure to "sell" pieces of Eretz Yisra'el. We still are far from this. But the question that must be asked regarding Shamir is whether, in view of the new situation, he will decide to start marching toward furthering an agreement with the Palestinians?

Labor Party Sets 2-3 Weeks for Political Moves

TA2102160390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The Alignment has set a time limit of two to three weeks for a decision to be made on the continuation of the political process. This was the decision the Alignment ministers made today, which will be submitted tomorrow to the Labor Party Bureau. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Today's meeting of Alignment ministers showed a party united in its position on taking quick action to promote the political process. This unity may have been brought about by Minister Rabin's comments that the Arab countries have been closing ranks against Israel regarding Soviet immigration.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres opened the debate by saying: The Alignment gradually has been losing credibility with the public because it comes across as a party that cannot make decisions, and we must stop this.

Peres called for a decision by the Inner Cabinet on the Alignment's compromise proposals within two weeks, regardless of whether concrete questions from the United States are received.

The surprise in the meeting was delivered by Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who usually takes a wait-and-see stance. He said the process must be advanced quickly, within a few weeks, as he phrased it.

The determination of the Alignment ministers received a boost from the relatively positive Egyptian answers to the Peres-Rabin proposals. Minister Moshe Shahal was entrusted with the task of formulating a draft resolution, in the spirit of the statements made today, to be submitted to the Labor Party Bureau tomorrow. The draft resolution will call for making decisions within a very short period of time. How soon? We heard from Rabin's associate Minister Ya'aqov Tzur and from Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish:

[Tzur] We are talking about two to three weeks, about a definite timetable unanimously endorsed by the Alignment ministers, and about a proposal to be submitted to the Labor Party Bureau.

[Harish] We are talking about two to three weeks for the Inner Cabinet to make political decisions.

[Gutman] More assertiveness could be found in the remarks of Knesset Member Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Alignment Knesset faction.

[Ramon] I have no doubt the determination of both Rabin and Peres to bring about an Inner Cabinet decision is absolute. If the Labor Party were to renege on such a decision, it would spell total disintegration, just as is happening with the Likud. I believe the time of reckoning, of whether the government is headed for peace or not, will come within two weeks. If the answer is no, we no longer will be part of the government.

[Gutman] All the ministers, with the exception of Mordekhay Gur, shared the feeling the need to make decisions is urgent. Minister Peres summed up the debate by saying: I do not want Shamir to go on with his evasive acts. He must say either yes or no. We must show we have character. If Shamir says he wants to wait a little bit longer, we will tell him: Thank you, no.

Such was the combative climate of the Alignment ministers on the eve of tomorrow's decision by the Labor Party Bureau. [end recording]

Shamir 'Not Scared' by Labor Party's 'Threats'

TA2202075590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The official response of the Prime Minister's Bureau to yesterday's Labor Party declaration is the prime minister is not scared by the Alignment's threats. This was reported by the prime minister's associates, who anyway directed us to the United States, pointing out it has not yet provided the necessary answers. The question, therefore, as the prime minister's associates see it, is: Why is the Alignment rushing to pose questions and present ultimatums, seeing that the United States has not yet provided Israel with an answer on the assurances? These are the messages from the Prime Minister's Bureau.

Liberals Elect Faction Head, Secretary General

TA2102145590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The five breakaway Liberal members of the Likud Knesset faction have appointed Pinhas Goldstein head of their faction, the Party for the Advancement of the Liberal Ideology in Israel.

Yitzhaq Qa'tabi was elected the party's secretary general. The faction members told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that on 26 February, after the Knesset House Committee approves their faction, they will conduct a news conference in which they will present their future steps. They added they will vote in favor of David Magen's ministerial appointment.

Likud, Alignment Agree To Rotate Portfolio

TA2102163690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The Labor and Social Welfare Affairs portfolio will rotate between a Likud and an Alignment minister. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres decided this today. They decided the Alignment's Minister Shahal and the Likud's Meridor will form a proposal to this effect.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports the agreement was made after the Alignment Knesset faction announced it will not support the new ministerial appointments if no solution is found for the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 21 February adds "the Alignment candidate for the job is Rafi Edri, and the Likud candidate is Roni Milo. If Milo gets the portfolio, David Magen will be appointed Ecology and Environmental Protection minister. The Likud demands it be first to man the rotating portfolio."]

Peres: Immigrants Can 'Choose' Where to Settle

TA2202080090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The International Center for Middle East Peace is meeting in Jerusalem right now, hosting many international figures. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres came to the meeting to tell the delegates that settlement activity in the territories

will end after the Cabinet fulfills its undertaking to add several settlements. In other words, after living up to the pledge to establish several additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria, that activity will end.

Peres devoted the main part of his speech to immigration and criticism of Israel regarding settlement in the territories.

[Begin Peres recording, in English] We shall allow every immigrant to settle at every place in the country he wants. We have changed our approach to immigration: No longer do we guide their choice, but we enable them to choose the way they want. But if they will listen to our advice, may I remind that half of Israel is empty. They are waiting for people—the Negev, more than 50 percent of our land—and the fact we have no one to confront in the Negev humanly does not mean we don't have to confront the Negev naturally. [end recording]

Egypt Favors Immigration, But Not to Territories

TA2102133290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Feb 90 p A9

[By 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, yesterday said "Egypt does not oppose Jewish immigration to Israel, but does oppose the settling of new immigrants in the territories."

Basyuni was responding to a request by Ashdod Mayor Tzvi Zilker that the ambassador act for Egyptian intervention to help Jewish residents of Arab countries immigrate to Israel. Basyuni said he would refer the request to the Egyptian authorities who handle this issue. The Egyptian ambassador and the Ashdod mayor visited the monument commemorating the Egyptian dead in the 1948 War of Independence. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Stable Jordan, Libyan Chemical Weapons

TA2102124190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Feb 90

[By Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The defense minister told the Knesset members [MK's] Israel must not shake the Hashemite regime.

[Begin Rabin recording] We must not gloat over or assist in the toppling of the Hashemite regime in Jordan. All the alternatives will be far worse. It is not our duty to help in this process, it is not our job to make things worse. I would prefer to see the incumbent administration in Jordan more stable, because I know what can replace it. [end recording]

On another matter, the defense minister told the plenum Libya still is trying to obtain chemical weapons. The above was stated in response to motions to the agenda and queries presented by MK's Beni Begin, Avraham Sharir, and Rehav'am Ze'evi.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 21 February also reports on Rabin's statement to the Knesset, adding that regarding the intifadah, Rabin "pointed out any element helping us impose law and order in Judaea and Samaria will receive assistance from the authorities, including weapons."]

Milo: Government To Honor VOA Agreement

TA2102125090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The Israeli Government will honor its agreement with the United States concerning construction of a Voice of America station in the 'Arava.

Roni Milo, ecology and environmental protection minister, said this during today's Knesset Finance Committee meeting, which covered the issue. He added if the Americans request the issue again be discussed, our stance will be different from the past.

Our correspondent Eytan Almog notes the head of the project administration, Re'uven Yardor, stated construction of the station will provide Israeli companies with construction and dirt work contracts totaling $45 million, in addition to transmission and control contracts totaling $190 million.

Brigadier General Tamir, deputy head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] General Staff's Planning Branch, said the station will force the Army to divert the Air Force firing range and the civilian aviation routes. The Americans will finance protection of Air Force aircraft against the station's electromagnetic radiation.

UNRWA Head Summoned on Agency's 'Digression'

TA2102132790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 90 p A1

[By Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] officials in the territories have been used in surveillance operations, spied on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the area, and reported through their communication system to their offices on what they perceive as aberrant soldier behavior. In some instances UNRWA officers even had the temerity to block military patrols and disrupt their routine activity.

This serious digression from the mandate given to UNRWA in the territories led to the decision to summon to Israel the president of the organization, an Italian who previously had served as his country's envoy to Damascus. Following a thorough review of the offending UNRWA acts, a new document has been worked out that redefines UNRWA officials' mandate in the territories.

Since the clarification meeting with the UNRWA president about a month ago, only one incident occurred involving organization personnel. UNRWA claimed the incident stemmed from the fact the UNRWA president's

instructions had not yet been transmitted to all echelons in the field. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment sources dealing with international organizations operating in the territories maintain the organizations long have violated the rules of the game that prevailed between them and the military government and no longer fear openly breaking these rules, knowing that the defense establishment will do its best to try to avoid causing them any harm.

The defense sources complain of a serious deterioration in the activity of international bodies in the territories, arguing that at the moment it is no longer possible to try to hold them in check. "It would be ridiculous for us to try to fight against these organizations' activities," they say.

A large number of these organizations are financed by the PLO, but there is no operational way of stanching the flow of money into the territories. The defense establishment has resigned itself to this fact.

EC Ministers Oppose 'Sanctions as Policy'

TA2102201990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem said this evening that information reaching the ministry from the EC foreign ministers conference in Dublin indicates all the foreign ministers, including the Irish foreign minister, who is the current EC president, oppose sanctions as policy. It also has been learned in Jerusalem the EEC Commission does not view its suspension of scientific cooperation with Israel as a sanction.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman told our political correspondent, Arye Golan, that in view of this information, it is hoped the measures against Israel soon will be stopped.

Egyptian Media 'Campaign' Targets PLO Leaders

TA2102172190 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "You Too...Egypt?"]

[Text] The diplomatic and media campaign directed against the Palestinian people and its leadership by some official authorities and the news media in Egypt has become intolerable.

The Palestinian people and its leadership condemned the "bus operation" on the Ismailia-Cairo road, but the Egyptian media launched a frenzied campaign against the Palestinians, even before knowing the identity of the attackers!

The bus operation ended tragically, but the attack on the Palestinians and their leaders still frenziedly goes on. How great was our pain when when we saw the Cairo man in the street heaping insults on us via Israeli television. On our part we ask: How can the authorities in Arab Egypt allow the escalation of this frenzied campaign against the Palestinians? Assuming the "bus operation" was carried out by Palestinians, is it logical to pin the responsibility for this act on an entire people and their leadership?

Since its publication, AL-NAHAR's policy has been not to oppose or attack any Arab state regardless of its positions and policies toward our scared cause, but what some circles in Egypt have done has gone too far. We do not intend here to defend ourselves, but which goal do they in Egypt intend to achieve from this campaign?

The Palestinian leadership has placed its full trust in Egypt and its leadership and has paid a heavy price for this rapprochement, whereby some Arab regimes adopted hostile positions toward the Palestinian leadership as a result; nevertheless, this leadership insisted on Egypt's return to the Arab fold and vice versa. The Palestinians began pressuring and persuading at every forum and assembly and succeeded in rectifying the situation so Egypt occupied its place in the heart of the Arab world.

The Palestinian leadership responded positively to the "advice" of the brothers in Egypt, whereby the problem was turned over to the United States, which always has represented an impediment to the Palestinian people's achievement of their rights. The Palestinian people and their leadership despite this suppressed their anger and endured all the difficulties in order to please Egypt and its leadership. The payback for this is we now are being "abused and insulted" in the Egyptian media and street.

Egypt sold the Palestinian cause for the first time in Camp David. Is there anyone in Egypt today who wishes to sell the cause for the second time in the belief the Palestinian problem's realpolitik will force us to surrender and agree to hand over our decision and destiny to them? Many other powers tried to "snatch" and seize Palestinian decisionmaking, but all of us know what was the fate of those powers!

We were led behind the Egyptian peace strategy in the absence of a unified Arab strategy, and due to the intellectual and political impotence in the Arab homeland, after the exclusion of any military solution to the pan-Arab problem, and at a time when Cairo had not yet overcome the grave problems produced by the Camp David operation in the Arab arena and its repercussions on the general Arab situation.

There is something that must be recorded: The Palestinian people never have denied what Egypt has offered our cause. The sacrifices and heroism of its sons in defense of the Arab nation's honor will remain the hope that Egypt, despite those Egyptian writers who are beating the drums, will revert to its familiar traits of devotion, love, and sacrifice.

We are absolutely confident President Husni Mubarak, who is trying to find a just and honorable solution to the

Palestinian problem, will "rein in" the owners of pens scheming against Arab Egypt, which has sacrificed and offered the flower of many of its youths during the four wars it has waged in defense of the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause.

Finally, Egypt will remain the warm bosom of all the Arab nation, first and foremost the Palestinians. Its "foam," however, will definitely evaporate.

General Heading Information Campaign in U.S.

TA2202073790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general, will depart for the United States on an information campaign at the end of the week. As part of this tour, he will also react to the Schifter report on human rights in the territories. Strassnoff was invited by the organization of Jewish law students.

Magnetic Identity Cards Redistributed in Strip

TA2102134890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 90 P A2

[By Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip recently began redistributing magnetic identity cards to those Gaza Strip residents who are permitted to work in Israel. So far, 10,000 new cards have been issued.

During the first stage of distributing the cards, about 90,000 residents of the Gaza Strip received magnetic identity cards and entry permits to Israel. These documents were valid for six months and now have to be renewed. The Civil Administration reported a great number of those who received the new identity cards did so because their old documents were invalid.

Military sources consider the distribution of the cards a success because approximately 90,000 residents who possess the cards set out for work in Israel despite the demand by the intifadah leadership and the strike committees that the cards be returned. The sources added that the permits granted to the populace help the security forces, the police, and the IDF to keep tabs on the thousands of workers leaving for work in Israel.

During the operation about 4,000 residents were forbidden entry permits into Israel. These residents received green cards, which bar them from leaving the Gaza Strip. Many of those who were disqualified are former administrative detainees, former security prisoners, and those with criminal records.

On 19 February it was announced the decision to start issuing magnetic cards to residents of Judaea and Samaria had been postponed.

Studies Conducted With Iraq on Joint Armor Corps

JN2102155890 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
20 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Informed Jordanian sources told AL-BAYAN's Amman correspondent yesterday Iraq and Jordan currently are conducting studies to form a joint armor corps to be deployed on the Jordanian-Iraqi border. This comes after they had formed a joint pan-Arab air squadron as part of a plan to boost Jordan's military capabilities.

Our correspondent also learned Jordan continues to hold intensive contacts with the Syrian and Iraqi leaderships to lay the groundwork for a reconciliation between them so all Arab strength can be mobilized to face the imminent dangers and threats to the region and to confront Israeli ambitions that have been awakened by the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Israel.

'Contradiction' Between U.S. Actions, Words

JN2202103890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
22 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Contradiction Between American Words and Actions"]

[Text] Although this year's U.S. State Department report on human rights in the world is less critical of Israeli practices than last year's, the authors of this important document could not possibly ignore the current tragic situation in the occupied Arab territories or provide cover for the series of Israeli crimes.

The report failed to give Israel's policy in the occupied territories the right label—a terrorist policy with an abominable racist odor. It also failed to highlight the various aspects of the depressing conditions of the people under Israeli occupation. We nevertheless accept the report, to be taken as the moral basis for a declared and practiced U.S. policy toward the violators of human rights in the occupied territories.

We know these reports, which are prepared annually by the State Department and forwarded to Congress, are directly linked to proposed foreign U.S. assistance to other countries. We consequently hope the violations of Palestinian human rights mentioned in the report will have direct bearing on the formidable U.S. assistance to Israel.

Our long experience with U.S. policy, however, makes us certain Washington does not stick to its principles when the matter hinges on Israel, nor does it adhere to its own ideals when it comes to Israel's widely-condemned practices. The evidence is that similar State Department reports, issued during the last few years, were thrown out by the U.S. Administration when it was decided to give Israel the biggest share of the overall proposed assistance to several world countries.

The new U.S. report on Israel's violations of human rights in the occupied territories not only is a direct condemnation of Israel's oppressive policy, but of the policies and statements of the United States, which continued to turn a blind eye to these violations, forgive the perpetrators, and even provide full material support and everything that could encourage Israel to violate the rules and Palestinian rights.

Seeing this sharp contradiction between U.S. actions and words toward Israel, we cannot read the report in isolation from the U.S. record of hypocrisy and maneuvering. Nor can we believe the report, as long as the United States pledges to finance the emigration of Soviet Jews and their settlement in the occupied territories, defends Israel's terrorist practices inside and outside the Security Council, and prevents the condemnation of its long occupation of the Arab land.

Iraq's Saddam Husayn Replies to House Speaker

JN2202102790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
22 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives, has received a reply from His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the appeal addressed by the Jordanian House of Representatives to His Majesty King Husayn, his excellency the Iraqi president, and his excellency the Syrian president, to close Arab ranks and discard differences to confront the challenges and threats facing the Arab nation.

His excellency said the call for Arab solidarity to face the threats in light of new developments, to work together, and to cooperate in the tasks of building and construction in a way that secures happiness for their people and gives a prominent human role to their nation, is a correct call, and an emblem that always should exist.

He added: We tackled this issue earlier and did our best to call for a specific program and implement it, making this positive state of affairs—as you and we intend—a continuous one in Arab relations, whose affirmation or abandonment is not subject to whims and caprices. We, moreover, put down these ideas clearly in the document we made public to the Arabs on 8 February 1980.

President Saddam emphasized: We have approached the Arabs bearing in mind the explanation of the contents and aims of this document without insisting on a specific stance on it. This is because we supposed it was a suitable topic for discussion among us, the Arabs, until we could reach a final formula that would make a unified stance materialize.

He added: We have made it clear to the brothers—kings and presidents—who expressed their desire to jointly endorse the document at that time, that we prefer to wait until the topics of the document mature through mutual dialogue. Then those who believe in it can endorse the document. But the war between us and Iran came, and consequently, we limited our endeavors to the media so

some Arabs might not misconstrue our appeal to them for discussion of the document.

His excellency added: After the war stopped, we immediately issued a document that included the principles we believed were the essence for forging clean Arab relations built on solidarity, care, love, and trust, so we could become one hand in the process of building and to join our efforts in one direction against hostile attempts. Two basic principles were among the highlights of the document: no interference in internal affairs and no use of force among the Arabs. We have signed that document, along with some of the Arab brothers. We will sign it again and abide by its contents, along with the Arab brothers who want to abide by them.

He added: Part of the criticism levelled at us Arabs is that when we deal with a certain issue, we do not familiarize ourselves with its background, which would have helped us know the possible from the impossible and facilitated our choice from among the possible options and the more effective means, so our choice would be acceptable and influential when approved. Another part of the criticism is we are sentimental when we think and make decisions. Although I know the difference between emotionalism and sentimentalism, and between what any human relations need, especially pan-Arab relations, of the emotions that can establish bridges and impart warmth to Arab relations, especially after the war experience, I share the critic's criticism of any stance unheeding of background, especially if this stance is connected with an enemy or an adversary.

Upper House Debates, Approves 1990 Budget

JN2202083190 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The Upper House of Parliament today debated the fiscal budget for the year 1990. The report of the House's Financial Committee reviewed the economic situation in Jordan in general, as well as the various aspects of the monetary crisis.

It asserted the need to increase growth of resources and close the gap between the local revenues and the current expenditure. The report referred to the decline in foreign currency reserve, attributing that to exaggerated spending and the establishment of some losing projects, increased exports and massive foreign loans. The report called for austerity measures and adaptation to the new situation. It called for measures to tackle unemployment among the graduates to lessen dependence on foreign labor.

Several members of the House spoke about the budget and the economic situation in the Kingdom. Some members pointed to unemployment as the major problem in the country. They called for a comprehensive human power planning and stressed the need to link such planning with the production process. They also called for increased production to minimize dependence on foreign imports and for expanding the agricultural land and the use of Army equipment in building soil dams.

Other members stressed the need to launch small projects and to pay attention to rural development to lessen immigration from the country to the big cities. They called on Arab states to increase their assistance to Jordan and to its Armed Forces because this country stands as a shield against the Israeli danger which is directed against the entire Arab world. The members also called for quick and effective government intervention to stop the increase in commodity prices.

Replying to the members' speeches, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said the government will give proper attention to the remarks made by the House's members. He said the government will limit acquisition of local and foreign debts within the law of the fiscal budget. The government, he added, realizes the importance of building a foreign currency reserve and part of that has been realized in 1989. He said the government will act to increase this reserve in the future. The prime minister also asserted that the economic correction program depends on national potentials and self-reliance.

At the end of the debate, the Upper House of Parliament unanimously approved the budget, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Financial Committee.

Bank Dispute Remains Stalemated After Sit-In

JN2102075090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 90 pp 1, 3

[By Sana' 'Atiyah, Special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Excerpts] Amman—A labour dispute at Petra Bank remained stalemated Tuesday after employees staged a sit-in protest which appeared to have made little dent on the management position, and as the day drew to a close both sides remained firm on their positions.

The sit-in, described as a "protest" by the employees but as "illegal strike" by the management, was the largest organised event by the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) which has thrown its weight behind the bank's staff. Around 400 of a total of 680 Petra Bank employees gathered in front of the main offices of the bank in Wadi Saqrah to stage the sit-in, while bank staff in branches outside Amman stayed away from work, according to JBIEA officials and representaties of Petra Bank employees.

According to the management, at least 160 staff members were in their offices and the bank performed "almost normal operations" despite the sit-in.

The employees' action revolves around their demand for improved working conditions, management reform and higher pay. The management, a government appointed-committee which assumed office after the Economic Security Committee (ESC) took over the bank in August last year, has offered one to 15 per cent pay raises, with

what it describes as special emphasis on the low-salary bracket, but the offer has been rejected by the employees.

Addressing a press conference held Tuesday evening, members of the management committee said they were willing to pursue negotiations to reach a settlement, but the employees appeared to reject further negotiations without a precondition that their demand for higher pay would be met.

Chairman of the Petra Bank Management Committee Walid 'Asfur told the press conference that the JBIEA was "exaggerating" the problem and its decision to hold the sit-in was "intended at pressuring the management."

'Asfur said that there was no need for the protest because the management was still in the negotiating process. The management could not attend the last scheduled meeting and the association called for the protest as a result, he said.

'Asfur added that the protest was illegal according to Article 103 of the Labour Law, which stipulates that a 14-day notice was essential before staging a strike.

In a statement released to the press, the management said it would not allow the association to interfere with the management of the bank, "which already suffers from difficult circumstances."

According to the employees, the protest will not only continue but also escalate if all their demands were not met. It is expected that the employees will call for the resignation of the management committee.

Three weeks ago, 500 employees signed a petition demanding better salaries and better conditions, and that the management begin to put the bank on its feet "rather than wasting time and destroying the reputation of the bank slandering the bank and its employees."

"If the management does not concede to our full demands, we intend to call for the resignation of the management, which has done nothing but destroyed the two most important assets of any bank: Reputation and credibility as well as the morale of our employees," Mazin al-Sakit, a protesting employee, told the JORDAN TIMES. [passage omitted]

Several Lower House deputies from the Democratic Bloc were present at the sit-in to express solidarity with the employees.

'Isa Madanat, a deputy from al-Karak, told the JORDAN TIMES that the employees had every right to protest in this manner because they had tried all means to achieve their rights with the management to no avail.

"All the employees are extremely protective of their institution, but they are suffering as a result of problems created by the previous management. Unfortunately, the new management is not any better and has done nothing to alleviate these problems," according to Madanat.

JBIEA President Haydar Rashid, who was present during the sit-in which began at 8 in the morning and lasted until 2:30 p.m., said the association had sent messages to King Husayn and the prime minister to intervene and bringing to account all "corrupt forces" of the previous and present management of the bank and clear the name of the bank.

The association also called on all employees in every bank in the capital to join the Petra Bank employees in their protest against the management committee Wednesday after their working hours at 2 p.m. Rashid said he expected a large number to show up, considering that many banks, institutions and professional and labour unions Tuesday sent messages of solidarity with the Petra Bank employees in their protest.

Petro-Canada Extends Oil, Gas Exploration Grant

JN2102151290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received this morning in his office at the Prime Ministry [Mr. Peter Too], chairman of the Board of Directors of the Petro-Canada Corporation for International Cooperation, who currently is visiting Jordan. Mr. Thabit al-Tahir, energy and mineral resources minister, attended the meeting.

Current cooperation between Jordan and the Petro-Canada Corporation in the area of oil exploration was reviewed during the meeting. The corporation will increase its grant to Jordan by 15 million Canadian dollars to help Jordan in oil exploration, as stipulated by an agreement between the two countries, which will begin at the end of March and last two years.

The prime minister expressed Jordan's appreciation to the Canadian corporation for the grant and the opportunity it has provided to develop national expertise in oil exploration. The prime minister noted the opportunity for benefiting from Canadian expertise in developing the Kingdom's natural gas wells and using that energy to meet the Kingdom's economic needs.

The Canadian side also expressed satisfaction with cooperation with Jordan and with the participation of local skilled workers with the Canadian corporation in oil exploration.

UN Troops Kill 2 in South; 3 Soldiers Wounded

NC2102210290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Security sources in southern Lebanon said that soldiers of the Norwegian contingent attached to the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon fired at two fundamentalist gunmen today and killed them near the area under the control of the South Lebanese Army. The sources added the firing began when the two gunmen tried to hide weapons in an area in the south which the soldiers were patrolling.

[In a Tyre-datelined report at 1704 GMT on 21 February, Paris AFP in English also says that "Three Irish peacekeepers were wounded Wednesday, one of them seriously, during clashes with Shiite militiamen in southern Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said." It adds, "UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said an Irish soldier was shot in the leg when three pro-Syrian Amal militiamen opened fire on a U.N. foot patrol near Haddathah village, east of this southern port city. A UNIFIL vehicle in the village was later hit by an anti-tank rocket fired from an Amal position, Mr. Goksel said. Two more Irish soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The Irish troops fired back, but there were no reports of Amal casualties."]

Amal Explains Clash With UN Forces

NC2202075790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] In a statement explaining the incident that took place between Amal fighters and soldiers of the Irish contingent of the UN forces in Haddathah, the Amal Movement said: When the Zionist enemy attempted to advance toward the town of Haddathah on Wednesday morning, Amal's mujahidin confronted Israeli forces, repulsed their attempts, and forced them to retreat. The enemy then shelled the town with tank artillery, causing casualties and property damage.

Meanwhile, the Irish contingent stationed in and around Haddathah took some precautionary measures. In the ensuing confusion, a clash took place between Amal's fighters and the soldiers of the Irish contingent. Two Amal fighters were martyred and three Irish soldiers were wounded in the clash.

The statement added that the Amal Movement command quickly contacted the UN command and the situation was brought under control and the incident contained. An agreement was reached on forming an investigation committee to clarify the circumstances that led to the incident and determine responsibility.

Government Source Criticizes 'Arafat Initiative

NC2102171590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Commenting on PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's initiative for resolving the situation in the eastern area, a government source said that 'Arafat is trying to please the West and to become a savior who will keep the Christians from the bloodbath of the ongoing war. The source stressed that 'Arafat's stand is directed against the Lebanese legitimate authority, which should receive the support and backing of 'Arafat and his supporters as dictated by the Arab resolutions.

The Palestinian delegation that is conveying 'Arafat's proposals met today with Ja'ja' and 'Awn and decided to stay longer in Lebanon.

'Awn Group Kills Lebanese Forces Member

NC2102131990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpt] A source in the Lebanese Forces has made the following statement: While the cease-fire accord is holding, citizens were walking on the Nahr-al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah crossing at 1100 today. Members of the 'Awn group stationed on al-Dubayyah hill directed sniper fire at them, wounding a 6-year-old boy named Paul Sa'adah and two other unidentified persons. When two Lebanese Forces men emerged to evacuate the wounded, 'Awn's group fired upon and wounded them. One of them, comrade Dany al-Khuri, died of his wounds while the other, comrade Antoine Kassab, was taken to Sayyidat Lubnan hospital for treatment.

Following this treacherous and criminal attack on innocent citizens, traffic on the Nahr-al-Kalb-al-Dubayyah crossing came to a halt and intermittent sniper fire could still be heard until the time this bulletin was being prepared.

In another development, sniper fire on the Museum Crossing in Beirut wounded one person and the crossing was closed for some time.

These practices that seek to distract the mediation committee from its original mission as well as the sniping against the fringes of al-Ashrafiyah, Sin al-Fil, and al-Dawrah, are all part of 'Awn media's psychological warfare despite the announced media truce. [passage omitted]

Skirmishes, Sniper Fire in Eastern Area Noted

NC2202102990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Skirmishes between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' groups involving the use of rockets and automatic weapons resumed on the al-Dawrah combat line at 1030 today. The clashes lasted about 15 minutes and were followed by sniper fire which extended to the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah. Violations of the fragile truce have been going on since early this morning. Sniper fire was exchanged on the combat lines of al-Dawrah, al-Dikwanah, al-Nab'ah, and the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah.

Meanwhile, fortification work and armored concentrations are continuing on the al-Matn-Kasrawan front. The

Lebanese Forces have deployed about 120 40-barrel rocket launchers they received from Iraq.

Villages Shelled in Iqlim al-Tuffah 21 Feb

NC2202074490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The villages of Kafr Hatta, Sarba, Jurnaya, Jarju', Humin al-Fawqa, and 'Anqun in Iqlim al-Tuffah were bombarded yesterday. One Amal member was wounded and one citizen was killed and three others wounded. Ten houses were demolished.

Army Positions in Alayh Under Fire 21 Feb

NC2202062890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate said in a statement last night that Army positions in Alayh came under fire from opposite positions at 1500 yesterday. Soldier Ahmad Ibrahim al-Barraj of the 111th Battalion was martyred.

Amal Group Attacks Israeli Position in South

NC2102131890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] In the resisting south, an Amal Movement group used machineguns and rockets to attack the enemy and his agents' position in the al-Shumariyah area at dawn today. In the 15-minute attack, the group destroyed the observation tower, silenced a 12.7-mm gun, and wrecked the position's fortifications. Immediately after the attack, Israeli occupation forces raked Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah villages, the al-Litani forest, and al-Qa'qa'iyah bridge with mortars, after illuminating the area with flares. A resistance fighter was slightly wounded and taken to the liberated area.

Enemy forces brought reinforcements to the area and carried out a wide-scale search for the resistance fighters early this morning. Israeli occupation forces shelled the Jabal al-Dahr ridges, the Mimis sector, Qilya-Burghuz line, and the al-Sariri forest for three hours last night, using 155-mm shells.

Israeli Reinforcements, Overflights in Al-Biqa'

NC2202104890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] For the past two days, the occupation forces have brought in armored reinforcements for their positions adjacent to the western al-Biqa' area, according to reports from the occupied border strip.

Two Israeli helicopters flew over the western al-Biqa' area last night, drawing antiaircraft fire. This prevented the aircraft from penetrating further into the area.

The Lahd militia radio has admitted that its position in al-Shumariyah was attacked by resistance fighters last night.

Syrian Opposition Front Formed in Paris

NC2202054590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The creation of the Syrian National Salvation Front was announced in Paris yesterday. In its first statement, the front, which seeks to topple President Hafiz al-Asad's regime, compared Al-Asad to Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and accused him of repressing the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian people.

The front comprises political and religious organizations and parties, including the Muslim Brotherhood, which are based in Iraq and Jordan.

Former Syrian President Amin al-Hafiz is a member of the front.

Junblatt Holds Talks With FRG State Minister

LD2002130190 Hamburg DPA in German 1125 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The leader of the Lebanese Druze, Walid Junblatt, held talks in the Foreign Ministry in Bonn today with State Minister Helmut Schaefer. According to the Foreign Ministry, Schaefer expressed concern at the deadlock in the search for a political solution to the conflict. Bonn continued to advocate the reestablishment of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country.

Junblatt sought the talks in the Foreign Ministry, but, according to relevant sources, this was not the main reason for the Druze leader's visit to the Federal Republic. There were no further details.

People's Assembly Approves 1990 Budget Law

JN2102220890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] At this evening's session under People's Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr. 'Ali Rida and in the presence of several ministers, the People's Assembly resumed its discussions of the general state budget for fiscal year 1990. The assembly approved the budget chapter by chapter. The allocations of the aforementioned budget amount to the aggregate sum of 61.875 billion Syrian pounds. The Assembly then discussed the draft law on the general budget article by article. Finally, the assembly approved the referent draft law and the state's general budget for fiscal year 1990 in its final form. The session was then adjourned until 1100 tomorrow.

Paper Says Unity 'Daily Need' for Arabs

JN2202071490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Feb 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arabs Will Have No Future Unless They Are United", AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Today is the bright anniversary of the unity between Syria and Egypt—the first unionist experience Arab masses anywhere could boast of, and the first embodiment of unionist ideas in contemporary Arab history. After explaining that the establishment of Arab unity was not as urgent as it is today, the paper refers to President Hafiz al-Asad's statement that the strength of the Arabs lies in their unity. The paper stresses that this statement embodies present, past, and future Arab hopes. It says unity is a daily need of life, a pressing fateful necessity, a humanitarian, national, and Arab duty, a tool of self-defense, and the sharpest weapon to protect land, rights, and dignity.

The paper adds: Syria never abandoned efforts to achieve Arab unity; it supported, blessed, or joined all Arab unions. However, Syria currently believes more strongly in unity and unionist action, and it is now more ready to respond to any endeavor to establish and develop unity. AL-BA'TH concludes: On the anniversary of unity, all Arabs must remember that unity does not cancel out anyone; rather, it increases everyone's power. Unity does not eliminate anyone; rather, it supports and guarantees his existence. Unity is everyone's weapon and fortress, and in unity, there will be no losers; all will win and triumph. It is also important for all of us to remember always that the Arabs and their coming generations have no future except through unity.

Article Views Sharon's Resignation as 'Gimmick'

JN2102233090 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 13 Feb 90 p 8

["Behind the News" column by 'Umar Jaftali: "A New Israeli Gimmick"]

[Text] Ari'el Sharon tendered his resignation from the Israeli Government to protest what he termed Shamir's policy, which, according to him, poses grave dangers to "Israeli lands and the Jewish existence". Enemy quarters as well as news agencies said that Sharon's decision confounded all Likud members including the two hardline ministers, David Levi and Yitzhaq Moda'i. Sharon announced his resignation when Shamir was asking participants in the Likud Central Committee meetings to indicate by a show of hands whether they still consider him the Likud leader and to endorse the plan for elections in the occupied Arab territories that he launched on 14 May.

The enemy attempted to use the resignation and Shamir's response to propagate new allegations claiming that the Likud hardliners, or the so-called troika "Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i," are obstructing peace efforts in the region while Shamir and the remaining 3,000 Likud members are advocates of peace—particularly after Shamir's leadership of the Likud was confirmed and after Sharon left the cabinet.

Of course, the situation is not as it looks. Sharon is impatient. He wants to quash the intifadah rapidly and seeks a free hand to perpetrate a large-scale massacre against the Palestinian people on the pretext of ending violence and "terrorism" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He is accusing Shamir of making concessions in this respect. This is happening while the Israeli troops, following Shamir's instructions, carry out on a daily basis terrorist operations whose savagery and barbarity surpass Sharon's fascist history. Our proof to corroborate this argument is that Zionist terrorism against the stone-throwing heroes has met with extensive international condemnation. The Zionist practices ordered by Shamir have been branded acts of unjustifiable terrorism against an unarmed people who are fighting to regain their freedom, lands, and national rights. Moreover, Shamir's "peace" initiative, which Sharon views as a concession, is designed to drag the Arabs' feet toward further acts of capitulation and to perpetuate the occupation, as this initiative does not recognize the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state. Furthermore, the initiative calls for maintaining the occupation and giving the Palestinians of the occupied territories self-rule.

Shamir, like the rest of the Israeli leaders, be they Likud or Labor, dream of establishing "Greater Israel." A statement to this effect was made by Shamir a few days ago. In addition, all Israeli leaders agree on not withdrawing from the territories occupied in 1967 and on not recognizing any national rights for the Palestinians. Similarly, the stigma of terrorism tarnishes equally the records of Shamir, Sharon, and the rest of the incumbent and former Israeli leaders.

As a matter of fact, the whole thing is no more than a new Israeli gimmick designed to peddle a new delusion portraying Shamir as a peace advocate who can be dealt with in negotiations on elections in the occupied West

Bank and Gaza Strip. However, our heroic people inside and outside the occupied territories will not be deceived by this gimmick, because they have tried all Israeli leaders and because they are well aware of their hostile intentions. Our people will not accept negotiations leading to capitulation. No, they are determined to continue the struggle until they regain their legitimate national rights in full.

Sources Expect Political Prisoners' Early Release

PM2102162090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Feb 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Decision To Release Prisoners Expected To Be Announced in Speech by Al-Asad Next Month"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian political circles in Damascus and Paris are talking about the possible announcement of liberalization measures in Syria on the March anniversary (the date on which the ruling Ba'th Party assumed power in 1963). They are likely to be announced in a speech by President Hafiz al-Asad on that occasion.

It is expected that these liberalization measures could include the repeal of the emergency law imposed after the 1967 war, granting the regime exceptional powers transcending the law and the judiciary.

It is worth mentioning that the emergency law is different from the recently repealed martial law. The repeal of the emergency law—if implemented—would mean the release of political prisoners who have not stood trial and on whom no sentences have been passed. It would also mean the full freedom of the press stipulated by the Syrian Constitution and obstructed by the emergency law.

The question being asked by Syrian circles revolves around whether the measure will be comprehensive or partial, that is, whether it will include all Syrian prisoners or only some.

Informed sources in Damascus say that the Ba'th Party's regional conference—scheduled to be held early last autumn, then postponed to the end of the year—has been postponed indefinitely. The sources see that there is a strong link between the postponement of the conference and the liberalization decisions which President Hafiz al-Asad may announce within the next few days.

Al-Shar' Meets With Indian Ambassador

JN2102221090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1622 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 21 Feb (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received this afternoon Indian Ambassador in Damascus Ramas Mulay [name as received], who conveyed a message to the minister from Indian Foreign Minister Kumar Inder Gujral. The message expressed India's determination to continue developing and bolstering relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and India in various fields and to continue its support for the Palestinian people's national rights and demands for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories.

Discussion during the meeting centered on the situation in Kashmir. Mr. al-Shar' expressed Syria's concern, which is bound to India and Pakistan through relations of friendship and cooperation, about finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Moroccan Minister of Tourism

JN2102130690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Moroccan Minister of Tourism Moussa Saadi in Damascus at 1000 today. Talks centered on the economic role of tourism and the importance of tourist cooperation between Syria and Morocco.

Afghanistan

Kabul Garrison Drive Kills 40 'Extremists'

LD2102161990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] In order to prevent terroristic actions and sabotage by Pakistani-linked extremists, the units and companies of the Kabul Garrison General Command have carried out mopping up operations around Kabul. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that as a result of this mopping up operation, 40 extremists were killed and a number of Sakr-20 and Sakr-30 surface-to-surface missiles were destroyed.

Also, as a result of artillery fire by the units and companies of Kabul garrison in the direction of Koh-e Safi, a large cache of enemy weapons containing Sakr-30 and Sakr-20 surface-to-surface missiles was destroyed.

19 Casualties Reported in Kabul Missile Attack

LD2102205790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] As a result of a U.S.-made missile attack by Pakistani-linked extremists on Kabul today, 4 of our compatriots were martyred and 15 were wounded. The military section of the BAKHTAR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY reported that among the missiles, which were launched from around Kabul, eight were of the Sakr-30 type and the rest were cluster bombs. Three of these missiles hit residential areas. The bombs that scattered as a result of the impact of cluster missiles were speedily neutralized and collected by the security forces.

The wounded were taken to hospitals and are under treatment. Material losses have also been inflicted as a result of the attack.

'Last Ditch Efforts' Launched To Save Khowst

BK2202005290 Hong Kong AFP in English 2112 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 21 (AFP)—Afghan Government air and ground forces launched heavy assaults Wednesday against guerrilla positions near the eastern town of Khowst, resistance sources said.

The attacks on positions overlooking the besieged town, 35 kilometres (20 miles) from the border with Pakistan, were "last ditch efforts" to save Khowst, according to one Afghan resistance source in this northwest Pakistan city.

The Afghan Air Force carried out repeated bombing strikes while ground forces used long range artillery fire in a bid to dislodge guerrillas who are threatening the town after capturing several important posts on mountains overlooking the garrison and its airport. Casualties were not immediately known, the sources said.

Government forces rocketed rebels entrenched in captured bunkers since Monday [19 February], they said, adding that the Army had fired surface-to-surface Scud missiles from Kabul in a bid to dislodge the mujahidin guerrillas from the Towr Ghora Mountains, five to seven kilometres (three to four miles) south of Khowst.

The mujahidin, "in complete control" of the heights since Monday, had not responded as they were saving on munitions ahead of an expected assault on Khowst, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said. Western diplomats in Islamabad confirmed the seizure of the heights.

The regime attacks followed the shooting down near Khowst on Tuesday by Muslim guerrillas of an Afghan supply aircraft leaving at least 20 soldiers dead, according to resistance sources. The plane was downed by a U.S.-made surface-to-air Stinger missile and its wreckage fell only 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Khowst, the sources said. AIP said the pilot of the aircraft was among the 20 people killed. The plane was loaded with arms and ammunition for the besieged garrison. The news agency said the ammunition the plane was carrying continued to explode late into the night. The sources did not identify the plane. AIP said it was a "large transport aircraft" bringing in supplies from the Afghan capital Kabul for Khowst, which has been besieged by the mujahidin for several months. The blockade has forced the government to resupply the city at night.

The fresh attacks follow the announcement last week by a Kabul official, Najmuddin Kawiani, that a supply convoy had reached the city of Gardeyz, capital of eastern Paktia Province, and might try to reach Khowst. The convoy started from Kabul on January 6 and reached Gardeyz after six weeks of bitter fighting with rebels. The guerrillas were blocking the 80 kilometre (50 miles) Gardeyz-Khowst road, the resistance has said.

Some 50 government soldiers have been killed since Friday at the Towr Ghora front, AIP said, adding that mujahidin casualties were "far less." Kabul media said 25 rebels have been killed in the past three days forcing the rebels to retreat at several points.

Najibullah Interviewed on Afghan Situation

PM2102155690 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 16 Feb 90 pp 14-15

[Interview with President Najibullah by Francis Cremieux; date, place not given]

[Text] [Cremieux] At the nonaligned summit in Belgrade, you outlined the Afghan plan for the restoration of peace which will be crowned by elections supervised by the United Nations. Nothing can start without a ceasefire. As head of the Armed Forces and president of the Republic, you just have to give an order or press a button to be obeyed. But what about the Alliance of Seven...?

[Najibullah] The Alliance of Seven did not exist, does not exist, and will not exist!

[Cremieux] It takes two to negotiate.

[Najibullah] We have been negotiating for months and even years, here in Afghanistan and abroad, at all levels. We are doing so with compatriots whom we must persuade to accept and participate in a broad peace conference without any exclusions or preconditions. All the parties concerned will send representatives to this conference capable of taking responsibility in their sectors. That is why a duo with the so-called Alliance of Seven is out of the question. We must not expect all our opponents to send their representatives. Only those who want to help restore peace will come. We are not excluding anybody. If the irreconcilable extremists exclude themselves, that is their responsibility.

[Cremieux] They will isolate themselves and be pushed to the fringes. Is that what you think?

[Najibullah] Precisely.

[Cremieux] So, first there would be a very broad peace conference which would introduce a restricted leadership group which would itself appoint a broader coalition government. A six-month cease-fire would make it possible to draw up a draft Constitution and an electoral law which should be approved by a Loya Jirgah. After the elections, a new government, formed on the basis of the people's will, would take office. But how would this Loya Jirgah be formed?

[Najibullah] That cannot be determined in advance. We must discuss it round a table and reach agreement on its composition and the method of forming it.

[Cremieux] During the six-month cease-fire, will the expanded government be answerable to the existing National Assembly?

[Najibullah] Do not forget that since the April 1988 elections, seats have been left vacant for opposition representatives. For the transition period, everything still has to be decided and negotiated, but I do not imagine that administrative, budgetary, or legislative continuity will be threatened. With regard to these questions, we do not lack constitutional experts, most of whom were educated in the French school....

[Cremieux] Is it true to say that your government is facing two oppositions—one which is political and which does not have military forces, and the other which is military and does not have political forces?

[Najibullah] When the Soviet troops came to Afghanistan, the Americans thought that they would remain a long time. They rapidly organized a number of groups of saboteurs, gangsters, and plunderers. They organized gangsterism. The Soviets left. For a few months, the Americans tried to solve the Afghan problem by military means. They failed. A political solution is now prevailing over other "recipes."

[Cremieux] That is your strategy too.

[Najibullah] Yes, but the opposition which is supported and armed by the Americans does not have any political leadership. Gangsterism cannot take the place of political leadership. The so-called government hastily formed in Rawalpindi one year ago, the self-proclaimed "interim" government (of what and of whom?) was doomed to failure. The Americans have made every effort to expand and boost it. They hoped to attract to it some elements (the king, the Shiite alliance of eight based in Iran), they tried to create a single political leadership within it. They failed. Gangsterism teaches its practitioners not to tolerate anybody above them, not to accept any superior at the helm. That is why the Americans are in difficulty again. I answered your question: It is not up to us to say which of our opponents are political or military. That is the Americans' problem.

[Cremieux] You said to me one day: "We will impose negotiations." You are nearing your goal.

[Najibullah] Some people think that great policies rapidly produce results. That was true of our national reconciliation policy. Our proverb says: "Slowly but surely."

12 Mujahidin Parties Agree on Elections

BK2102132390 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Feb 90 p 3

[From our staff correspondent]

[Text] Peshawar, Feb 20—Twelve Afghan mujahidin parties, including seven forming Afghan Interim Government [AIG], have decided to hold party-based elections on proportionate electoral system in liberated south-eastern province of Afghanistan.

According to Afghan news agency (revived by Hekmatyar's Hezbe-e) a joint committee of 12 mujahidin parties has been set up to supervise the election process, as the local branches of all these parties have discarded the scheme forwarded by the A.I.G. for the election of Shura members.

On Najmuddin, a member of that committee, who arrived in Peshawar has revealed that under the decision all participating parties will put their own ballot boxes in the polling stations. He says that all the component parties of the Afghan Interim Government had agreed upon holding elections on proportional representation, but a few officials were creating obstacles in this way.

"Some of the Afghan Interim Government officials, he said, were putting maximum pressure to postpone these elections in Konarha, but the mujahidin parties were determined to go ahead with their programme at all costs.

Asadabad (formerly called Chaghasarai) the headquarters of Konarha Province, it may be recalled, had been liberated in October, 1988, and a Jamiat-e Eslami man

Maulvi 'Abdul Rabbani was appointed Governor of the province. Later, he was removed and replaced by another Jamiat man, Mohammad 'Ali, but the joint committee of mujahidin did not accept him.

Besides seven parties of the AIG, the 12 parties joint committee includes Dawat-e Etehad of Qazi Amin, Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami of Maulvi Nasrullah Mansur, Eshaat-e Tucheed of Maulvi Shah Zaman and Jamiat Dawat-e-Quran wa Sunnah of Maulvi Jamilur Rehman.

Two Stinger Missiles Purchased From Opposition

LD2102223390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] On the basis of Decree No. 204 dated 18 Mezan 1366 [10 October 1987], the organs of the Ministry of State Security have today purchased two surface-to-air U.S.-made Stinger missiles and [word indistinct] from a commander of an armed opposition group attached to the Rabbani extremist group in the surroundings of Shakar Dara District [Kabul Province].

The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the purchase price of these rockets was paid to the other side in accordance with the decree.

Bangladesh

Begum Khaleda Zia Escapes Assassination Attempt

BK2102163490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1620 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Begum Khaleda Zia is said to have escaped an assassination attempt in Dhaka today. AFP, quoting eyewitnesses, says the assassination attempt was made by unidentified gunmen in Dhaka University campus while Begum Zia was leading a procession to the martyrs memorial. Begum Zia was not hurt, and she was immediately removed by her party workers from the scene.

French President Mitterrand Arrives for Visit

BK2202101090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 22 (AFP)—President Francois Mitterrand flew in here to a warm and tumultuous welcome Thursday [22 February] at the start of a three-day visit, the first by a French president to Bangladesh, state-run television BTV reported.

Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his wife Raushan greeted the French leader and his wife Danielle as they alighted from their Concorde airliner to a 21-gun salute.

Heavy rains had earlier lashed the city, giving it a look of freshness in time for the Mitterrands' arrival.

Mr. Mitterand is the first major Western leader to visit Bangladesh since it gained independence in 1971. His arrival was broadcast live on Bangladesh television, which usually does not begin transmission until the evening.

The presidential couple, surrounded by journalists and photographers, shook hands with dignitaries who turned out to welcome them while a band played the French national anthem.

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed had urged his 110 million compatriots to welcome a "great friend" of Bangladesh, alluding to Mr. and Mrs. Mitterrand's personal efforts to mobilise international aid to the frequently disaster-stricken nation.

Mr. Mitterrand is accompanied by a 23-member delegation, including Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas, Industry Minister Roger Fauroux, Agriculture Minister Henri Nallet, Secretary of State for Women's Rights Michelle Andre, Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner and Technology Minister Georges Sarre.

Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Ershad will meet on Friday.

During his visit Mr. Mitterand is expected to announce French involvement in an international plan to alleviate the floods that regularly sweep Bangladesh, one of the poorest nations in the world.

Late Thursday Mr. Mitterand will visit a monument to those killed in Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence with Pakistan, after which he will be received by the Mayor of Dhaka, Naziur Rahmana, and attend a state dinner given by Mr. Ershad, officials said.

On Friday he will visit by helicopter a region close to Dhaka—at the junction of the Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna Rivers—frequently stricken by disastrous monsoon flooding.

Mr. Mitterand, who just ended a three-day state visit to Pakistan, will leave Banglandesh for France on Sunday morning.

Indian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Addresses News Conference

BK1802161490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has said Bangladesh and India are now set to resolve their differences through mutual discussions and friendly cooperation. He was addressing a crowded news conference in Dhaka this evening before his departure for home at the end of his three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Mr. Gujral said he was very happy on his talks with Bangladesh leaders. They have discussed all gamuts of bilateral, regional, and international issues and arrived

at some major decisions on resolving bilateral issues, including Chakma issue, the sharing of Ganges waters, increasing trade and economic relations. He said Bangladesh and India have agreed that the joint economic commission will meet in New Delhi on the 20th of May next to discuss further promotion of bilateral cooperation. Both the countries have also agreed to revive the joint rivers commission and the joint study team on floods and hold further talks on the agreements for sharing of Ganges waters when they meet in May.

The Indian external affairs minister said they have agreed that Chakma refugees in India should come back home and India will fully cooperate in this regard. A Bangladesh goodwill mission will visit India soon to persuade the refugees to return.

Mr. Gujral said the South Talpatti Island issue also came up for discussion and they have agreed to exchange data. Cultural exchange programs between the two countries should be strengthened and a bilateral double taxation agreement is ready for signature.

The Indian external affairs minister said his country is committed to have better relations with the neighboring countries. He said SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] should be strengthened to make it a platform for friendship and cooperation.

Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud who also addressed the news conference said Bangladesh believes in the exchange of views and dialogue in resolving all outstanding issues. We had discussions with the visiting Indian external affairs minister on all matters in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

Earlier, the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Gujral, called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. He apprised the president of the progress of talks on bilateral issues being held between the two countries and said India attaches importance to improving ties with its neighbors. President Ershad expressed satisfaction at the progress of talks. He said better understanding between the two countries will depend on finding a solution of all the outstanding issues. The president told Mr. Gujral to convey his best wishes to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh and President R. Venkataraman. He said he was looking forward to meeting the Indian prime minister at an appropriate time. Mr. Gujral said India will not extend any support to the so-called Banga Bhumi Movement and assured of whole-hearted Indian cooperation in facilitating the return of refugees to the Chittagong hill tracts. He said no miscreants would be given sanctuary in the Indian soil.

The Indian external affairs minister also called on Vice President Moudud Ahmed and Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed. Later, he met the irrigation and water development and flood control minister, Ghulam Mostafa, at his office Sunday.

Calls Visit 'Succesful'

BK1902024490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0221 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 18 (AFP)—Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said here Sunday [18 February] that peaceful changes in the world should be transferred to South Asia. He told a crowded news conference at the end of a three-day official visit to Bangladesh that the world had changed "beyond apprehension" and that the end of the cold war "should be transferred to our region also."

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was the platform to usher in an era of peace in the region, he said, adding that the seven-nation group should be further strengthened to achieve this objective. SAARC, founded in Dhaka in 1985, comprises Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives.

The minister described his visit to Bangladesh as "successful" and said, "I leave as a happy man.... We are set on a firm road of friendship and cooperation." When asked to state on the outcome of the visit plainly, Mr. Gujral said, "I have not promised anything, only resolved." He said the two sides had agreed to hold a meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint economic commission on May 20 in New Delhi to discuss trade cooperation and to a revival of the joint rivers commission at the same time.

His host, Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, said that Dhaka had "excellent" relations with New Delhi despite several irritants which could be removed through continued dialogue. "We never doubted India's intention, but ultimately the results will prove the intentions," Mr. Mahmud added.

On Bangladesh's proposal for a permanent agreement on sharing the waters of the Ganges River, Mr. Gujral said the two sides agreed that long- and short-term solutions to the problem should be reached. "I hope during our next meeting we will be able to take a step further," he said.

He also said India was committed to transfering a small land corridor being reviewed by the Indian Supreme Court under a 1974 agreement. The agreement has been challenged by some Indian nationals.

During his stay here, Mr. Gujral held talks with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and senior officials. He also met with some opposition leaders, including those of the leading Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, at "social gatherings."

Mr. Gujral arrived here Friday on his first visit to Bangladesh accompanied by his wife, senior officials and a strong media team.

The Indian foreign minister pledged his country's cooperation on a solution to a tribal insurgency in Bangladesh's southeastern Chittagong Hills. He said both sides agreed that Chakma refugees there should come back to their homes in Bangladesh and that their life and property should be protected on their return. Mr. Gujral said agreement was also reached on the visit of a Bangladeshi "goodwill mission" to India's Tripura State to persuade the tribal refugees to come back, assuring India's cooperation in this regard.

In the Chittagong Hills, Shanti Bahini insurgents, mostly drawn from the Chakma Tribe, have been fighting a 16-year bush war for autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers from the rugged region.

When asked if India had sought mediation from a third party on its dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, he replied in the negative.

The Bangladesh foreign minister denied allegations of Pakistani interference in India's only Moslem state and said Dhaka had no evidence for or against such an allegation.

Earlier on Sunday, during his talks with Mr. Ershad, Mr. Gujral briefed the president on efforts to find "mutually acceptable" solutions to irritants between the two countries. He also reportedly touched on other issues between Dhaka and New Delhi, including the recent activities of a Hindu-group based in Calcutta campaigning to carve out parts of western Bangladesh and set up "Bangabhumi," or Bengal land.

Hindus are a minority in predominantly Moslem Bangladesh.

India would not extend any support to the Bangabhumi movement and the "existing political boundary of India was sacrosanct to us," Mr. Gujral was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency.

The agency said Mr. Ershad expressed satisfaction at the progress, but told Mr. Gujral that "better understanding between the two countries would depend on finding a solution of all outstanding issues."

Commentary on Talks, Relations

BK1902095190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] India-Bangladesh bilateral relations are now expected to receive a new boost and momentum. At the bilateral talks held in Dhaka at the foreign ministers level, the two countries have expressed their common resolve to further strengthen their relations. The talks have been held during the visit by Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral to Dhaka. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral at their formal talks have reviewed the entire gamut of India-Bangladesh bilateral relations. Both sides have shown positive response to further strengthen bilateral ties. The visit by the Indian external affairs minister to Bangladesh has otherwise been a significant one. This is so because this is the highest-level visit by an Indian minister after the change of government in New Delhi. On his first visit as the new Indian external affairs minister, Mr Gujral has carried a message of goodwill from the Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh for President Ershad.

The new Indian Government has spoken about better relations with the neighbors. Against this backdrop, the visit by the Indian external affairs minister can be considered as an expression of goodwill. It is to be further noted here that the visit by an Indian foreign minister to Bangladesh has now taken place after a long gap of three years, following the visit by the then Indian foreign minister, N.D. Tiwari, in early 1987. Great many changes have taken place in the international arena since then. That the world is changing, it is very logical that the countries should take a new look at the unfolding situation. As two close neighbors, Bangladesh and India with goodwill and understanding can certainly look forward to better relations and cooperation.

India-Bangladesh bilateral relations have otherwise been very good. It could have been better with more determined efforts to resolve some outstanding bilateral issues. There indeed exist vast areas of cooperation which still remain untapped. It is gratifying to note here that both Bangladesh and India have explored the opportunities for further strengthening and widening the areas of bilateral cooperation and collaboration in the changed context at the talks held in Dhaka between the two foreign ministers. It has been done with a positive attitude shown by the two sides to deal with some of the still-unresolved bilateral issues. The issues (?to resolve) include sharing of the Ganges water and the use of waters of 54 common rivers, return of Chakma refugees from the state of Tripura, handing over of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh, delimitation of maritime boundary, ratification and implementation of the India-Bangladesh land boundary agreement by New Delhi, determination of the ownership of South Talpatty island, and removal of Bangladesh's trade imbalances with India.

On its part, Bangladesh has always wanted the solution of the outstanding bilateral issues as expeditiously as possible to help forge greater understanding and cooperation for further strengthening India-Bangladesh bilateral relations. But the issues have still remained unresolved for one reason or other. This has obviously acted as a constraint to more meaningful expansion of bilateral relations for promoting the mutual interests of the two peoples.

It is quite encouraging now to note that the two sides have discussed their bilateral issues in Dhaka in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding. The Indian foreign minister is reported to have reiterated New Delhi's willingness to hand over the Tin Bigha corridor

to Bangladesh as soon as possible. Substantive progress was also made on the issues relating to the return of the Chakma tribals from India. The joint task force on flood problem will continue its exercise for finalizing its report as early as possible.

A ministerial-level meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission will also be held in New Delhi in third week of May next. Both sides have further agreed to continue the joint survey for determination of the ownership of South Talpatty island. Thus, the entire gamut of bilateral relations including outstanding issues has been covered by the two sides in the talks in Dhaka. There is, thus, now a good understanding for stepping up efforts to further strengthen the relations between the two neighbors.

Bhutanese Minister Presents Ershad Flood Report

BK1402155590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The report on flood control prepared by Bangladesh-Bhutan joint team of officials was presented to President Ershad in Dhaka today. Bhutanese Foreign Minister Dawa Tsering formally presented a copy of the report to the president. The report recommends joint study and research to stop soil erosion, landslides and consequent heavy influx of sediments in the downstream. The report proposes setting up of an institutional framework to carry out this specific recommendation and consultation between the two countries on regular basis. It also suggested setting up of an appropriate communication system for speedy transmission of relevant data and information for timely flood forecasting. The Bangladesh-Bhutan joint team of officials was set up during President Ershad's visit to Bhutan in the wake of devastating floods in Bangladesh in 1988.

After presenting the report, the Bhutanese foreign minister informed the president about the progress toward improving the establishment of road links and telecommunication system between the two countries. They also discussed bilateral trade and cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

India

LTTE Talks Make 'Considerable Progress'

BK1702065290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] India regrets Pakistan's rejection of the evidence given and hopes Pakistan will stop interference in its internal affairs. Talking to newsmen at Calcutta airport, Mr. Gujral said the center will firmly deal with those who are working at the behest of foreign powers in Jammu and Kashmir and restore normalcy in the valley. He added that efforts are being made to bring those who have taken to violence back to the national mainstream. India has rejected the Sri Lankan charge that New Delhi is forcing a friendship treaty. Mr. Gujral said there has not been any pressure from India for the immediate signing of the treaty. He pointed out that the proposal for a friendship treaty was made by Sri Lanka only last year. India has said it is quite happy with the existing agreement signed in 1987 in its present form. Reports of intergroup fightings and killings continue to come with the sudden influx of refugees to India, he pointed out. He expressed the hope that the Sri Lankan Government will take adequate steps to ensure that all communities in the Northern Province will be safe and secure.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, has said that there was a broad identity of views with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] on issues to solve the ethnic crisis during their discussions in Madras today. Mr. Karunanidhi said the talks had made considerable progress. The LTTE team at the meeting is being led by Mr. Balasingham and includes Mr. Yogi. The Tamil Nadu chief minister is being assisted by the union minister, Mr. Murasoli Maran. The talks are to continue tomorrow. Mr. Karunanidhi had first met an LTTE delegation in December following the National Front government's request to help find a solution to the ethnic crisis.

Talks Adjourned Until 22 Feb

BK1802095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, continued his discussions with the representatives of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and various others Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups in Madras on the third day today. Later, Mr. Karunanidhi said that the leaders of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] told him that they will again meet him on the 22d of this month after consulting their leaders.

Our Madras correspondent understands that cease-fire between LTTE and other Tamil militant groups, dissolution of Northeast Provincial Council, and fresh elections in northeast figured in the talks.

Tamils Kill 1 in Tamil Nadu

BK1902145090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, one constable was killed and 13 persons injured when a group of Sri Lankan Tamil militants opened fire at a checkpost in Ramanathapuram late last night. The injured include nine constables. The state chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, described the incident as aiming at sabotaging the ongoing talks between various militant groups.

Gujral Receives Nepalese Foreign Secretary

BK2102162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] The official-level talks between India and Nepal continued in New Delhi for the second day today. Both the delegations met for three hours and discussed various bilateral issues.

The Nepalese foreign secretary later called on the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral. A joint statement on the outcome of the talks is expected tomorrow after the concluding session.

According to the Nepalese Congress sources, the death toll in yesterday's police firing in (Dhanisa) District of Nepal has gone up to 10 in connection with the movement in favor of multiparty system. Official sources however put the number of killings to four.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued in Kathmandu today, the Nepal Vidyarthi Sangh [students federation] has demanded an inquiry into the killings and arrests in Nepal in connection with the movement by the international human rights organization.

Soviet Officials Discuss Aviation, Finance

BK2202034890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union are to explore the possibility of acquisition and coproduction of civil aircraft. The visiting Soviet minister for aviation industry, Mr. Systsov, discussed areas of cooperation in the field of civil aviation with the civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, in New Delhi yesterday. They also exchanged views on the possibility of cooperation in communication facilities at the airports. The meeting followed the first session of the joint India-Soviet group on aviation industry with both the sides expressing hope that the existing cooperation will be further strengthened in the coming years.

India has suggested constitution of two high-level working groups to discuss issues pertaining to the 1978 protocol on rupee-ruble exchange rate and the problem of profit repatriation of joint ventures in the USSR. Welcoming an 11-member high-level Soviet economic delegation led by Mr. (V.V. Setelin), deputy minister for finance, in New Delhi yesterday, the finance secretary, Dr. Bimal Jalan, emphasized the need to resolve the problem soon. The deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr. C. Rangarajan, and the secretary and chief economic adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Nitin Desai, are to lead the Indian side of the two working groups.

Kashmir Leader Demands Talk on Pre-1952 Autonomy

BK2102164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the state administration is taking several steps to accelerate the pace of development. The adviser to the governor, Mr. Ved Marwah, today visited Anantnag and reviewed the developmental works with district officers. Some bridges damaged in the area by the subversives are being reconstructed. Mr. Marwah sanctioned timber for reconstructing the school buildings set on fire and damaged by the militants recently.

Meanwhile, the situation in the valley remained largely peaceful. In Srinagar, curfew was relaxed for 12 hours. Shops, business establishments, and offices functioned normally and transport plied.

The parliamentary party leader of the National Conference, Professor Saifuddin Soz, has demanded that the center should open a dialogue with the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] and other militant organizations to restore the autonomy enjoyed by Jammu and Kashmir prior to 1952, as he put it. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said that leaders of all political hue should be involved in the dialogue. Clarifying a point, Professor Soz however said that his party has not yet spelled out any approach as suggested by him.

Woman Killed, 2 Policemen Wounded in Kashmir

BK2002090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one woman was shot dead in an incident of cross firing between the militants and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] in Khalidpura-Kanihar in Srinagar city this morning. The woman, who was standing in the compound wall of her house, is reported to have been hit by a bullet in the firing. A CRPF head constable was also injured in the incident.

One CRPF personnel is also reported to have been injured in another encounter with the militants in Badu Bagh area of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, a large procession of lawyers, writers, scholars, and intellectuals went through the Civil Lines area demanding that the Kashmir problem should be solved in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Later, they handed over a memorandum to the chief of the UN observers at Srinagar today.

Punjab Rail Blockade Called; Precautions Taken

BK2102163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, all mail express and branch passenger trains will run tomorrow in a phased manner despite the rail roko [blockade] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF]. The railways have made all security arrangements to run the trains smoothly.

An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the state government will provide adequate security on all the trains and intensify patrolling along railway tracks. Additional forces have been deployed at railway stations and other sensitive points. About 300 preventive arrests have been made so far. The Theruman Akali Dal has appealed to the AISSF to call off its rail roko agitation.

The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, has described the memorandum submitted by the Congress-I to the president on Punjab yesterday as a political gimmick. Reacting to queries from newsmen in New Delhi today, the spokesman alleged that the Congress-I stand on Punjab is full of contradictions and inconsistencies. He said the allegation that the president is not kept informed of the latest situation in Punjab is baseless. He appealed to the Congress-I not to make Punjab a bone of partisan contention.

'No Response' to Strike Call

BK2202091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead an assistant superintendent of police, jails, Mr. P.L. Virdi, in a posh locality in Amritsar city this morning. According to an official spokesman, Mr. Virdi, along with his family, was going in a car in Rani Ka Bagh area when he was attacked. Reports say that two terrorists in a scooter drove alongside the car and opened fire just outside the food and civil supplies office. Mr. Virdi, who was driving the car, was hit in the head and died on the spot. His wife and children sustained minor injuries. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot, and the entire area has been cordoned off.

Meanwhile, the rail roko [blockade] call given by the All India Sikh Students Federation has evoked no response in the state. All the trains are running as per schedule. According to reports received from various places of the state, no untoward incident has so far taken place. All the trains operating in the state have been provided with adequate security. Patrolling along the railway tracks is continuing, and additional force deployed at all the railway stations and other sensitive places. About 300 preventive arrests have been made in this connection.

United Front Secures Majority in Manipur Polls

BK2102133590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] In the Manipur assembly elections, the opposition United Front secured an absolute majority today, winning 32 out of the 58 seats for which elections were held. The Congress-I, with 26 seats, emerged as the single largest party. Of the 12 results declared today, the Manipur People's Party got four seats, taking its tally to 10; Congress-I bagged three; Congress-S and the Janata Dal one and two constituencies each; and CPI [Communist Party of India] took one. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Manipur People's Party, Mr. Ujay Singh, said that the leader of the newly formed United Front legislature party will be elected soon. The front consists of Janata Dal, Manipur People's Party, Congress-S, CPI, Kuki National Assembly, and National People's Party. Our Imphal correspondent understands that the Congress-S with six seats will play a vital role in the leadership issue of the United Front.

Meanwhile, the president of the Pradesh [state] Congress-I, R.K. Durendra Singh, has said that being the single largest party, his party will stake the claim to form the government.

Iran

Troops Said Deployed in Tehran To Quell Protests

TA2102175290 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] It has just been reported from Tehran that on the order of Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the approval of 'Ali Khamene'i as commander in chief, armed soldiers have been deployed in different parts of Tehran such as Sepah Square, Zhaleh Avenue, the Zhaleh intersection, Fowziye Square, Vanak Square, Kakh Avenue, Gorgan Avenue, and Yusefabad in order to prevent escalation of the people's demonstrations throughout the capital.

TEHRAN TIMES Urges Hostage Release

LD2202111190 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—An Iranian daily said Thursday that the hostages kept in Lebanon have turned into a propaganda cause for the West to "justify their misdeeds."

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in an editorial titled "Hostages in Lebanon are Victims of Western Hegemony" said: "Regardless of the West's propaganda ploys, Muslim forces, out of Islamic and humanitarian considerations, should work to get the hostages free with no precondition."

The editorial suggested that while the Muslim forces should continue their rightful struggle against Western hegemony, "they should regard the hostages as victims of imperialist policies of the West and make attempts to get them all freed."

The paper urged all active forces in Lebanon to work to free all hostages regardless of their nationality.

Release of the hostages is an Islamic, ethical and humanitarian move, stressed the English daily.

The editorial accused the West of not attaching practical value to the hostage issue. It referred to the fate of Iran's former charge d'affaires to Beirut Mohsen Musavi and three staff of the Iranian embassy kept in captivity for

years, saying "their freedom is as important to Iran as is the release of Western hostages to the West...but...the West has only directed its campaign for the release of its own hostages only."

Stressing that the hostages should be freed only on Islamic and humanitarian grounds, the editorial said in conclusion. "Maybe 1990 will be the year for the release of all the hostages."

Ahmad Khomeyni Reaffirms Support for Khamene'i

LD2102183990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] On the occasion of the Clergy and the Holy Defense Day, a large number of clerics from all over the country gathered this afternoon in the sacred shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. In this gathering Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, while expressing his respects to martyr Mahallati and other martyrs accompanying him who were martyred as the result of the air attack of the Iraqi regime on their aircraft, read out some passages of the historic message of his eminence the imam, sanctified be his soul, to the clergy. In explaining that message, he said: In this message the imam said that genuine clergy is opposed to U.S. Islam and will always be a supporter of the deprived. [video shows Ahmad addressing large group of clergymen around his father's grave]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni added: At a time when pure Muhammadan Islam is under attack by its enemies, the members of the clergy should try to hand over to the next generation what they understand of Islam. Explaining another part of the message of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, he said: The imam always emphasized the unity of the clerics and called on them to fight against the ossified pseudo-clergy.

At the end of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the need to follow the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, guardian of the Muslim cause, and asked the members of the clergy to always follow their movement on the path of the imam. In this gathering Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli in a speech also elaborated on other passages of the message of his eminence the imam and praised the members of the clergy for their self-sacrifice.

Khamene'i Praises Clerics in 21 Feb Speech

LD2102144890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i at meeting with clerics and others on 21 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Today, we have behind us a collection of memories from the valuable days of the revolution, and also splendid reminders from the great Prophet of Islam. On the one hand, today is the anniversary of the martyrdom of His Holiness Abol Hasan Musa-ibn Ja'far, may God's benediction be upon him and his scion, which is an unforgettable memory. [passage omitted]

On the other, it is the anniversary of the time when the martyr Mahallati, and a number of the country's ulema, dignatories, and officials were martyred during the war by the Iraqi aggressors who downed the aircraft in which our dear ones were traveling. Furthermore, this period coincides with the anniversary of the issuance of the unprecedented message of the late great imam, on issues regarding the clerics and the Shiite theological community; a message which should never become antiquated, or cease to be referred to. Also, today, coincides with the incident that occurred on the 19 February 1979, which was one of the major steps taken by our nation, toward the victory of the revolution. [passage omitted]

The main issue lies in the fact that our revolution would certainly not have succeeded had it not been an Islamic revolution, the banner of which was in the hands of the ulema of the religion, hence an independent, proud, and strong government would not have been established. This is not only our analysis, but also that of those who pursued the issues of the revolution, since before its victory. In those days, too—during the years 1978 and 1979—the opposition front, that is to say, the corrupt, decadent, and oppressive front of the ringleaders of that day, and those who were opposed to religious ideology and the role of the clerics reached the same analysis. On the basis of that analysis, they were trying to undermine the power of the clerics, create discord between them, or distance them from the people. They did not succeed, however, not because they did not want to, or did not try. The reason why they failed is a very lengthy one. [passage omitted]

One of the major factors behind the victory of our revolution was that God Almighty endowed us with such a unique leader. [passage omitted]

The clerics, with their presence, alacrity, devoutness, and some of their excellent characteristics, constitute one of the most significant factors, or perhaps—or certainly, rather than perhaps—the most significant factor, in the successful uprising and victory of the revolution, the establishment of an Islamic government and system, and its continuation until today. The enemies are aware of this. Therefore, the pressure which was, and is being exerted on this revolution, from every corner of the world of arrogance, is in the first place aimed at the religion and the clergy. But for the clerics who carried the banner of the revolution on their shoulders, we would not have achieved victory. The enemy is aware of that. Hence, its major animosity is in the first place aimed at Islam and the clergy. The clerics should look at this in two ways: First, both the clerics and the

people should bear in mind that, to perpetuate the revolution, the presence of the clerics is indispensable.

An integral condition for the survival of the revolution and the Islamic Republic regime and the independence of the country is for the clerics to be active. Clerics must remain active and must have feeling; they must have the feeling of belonging to the revolution. They must defend the revolution with all their being, as they have done during the past several years. They did so on the military scene and on the war front, offering martyrs from among their ranks—youths carrying rifles, those wearing Basiji uniforms and those carrying rocket-propelled grenades and drowning in their own blood. And they did so on the political scene as well as the propaganda scene and in training the forces at the seminaries, especially at the blessed Qom seminary. Therefore, they clerics have been present on the scene during the past several years. In the future they must be present on the scene in larger numbers and higher quality and with manifold devotion. That is one viewpoint shared by both the people and the clergy. And yet, another viewpoint is this: that the clerics and especially those among them who are more awakened and more devoted—thank God we can see these characteristics among vast strata of the clerics—must learn what are the conditions for the full impact of the clerics' presence on the revolution and the progress of the objectives of the revolution. And having done so they must then create these conditions. And what are the ills concerning the presence of clerics to prevent them. If there are ills, then they must remove them. This is a serious matter; it is not a slogan. If this move is performed, the victory will continue. Islam and the Islamic Republic will see their strength increasing day by day. Otherwise, the result will be difficulties, obstacles, and, God forbid it, defeat. That also applies to Islam and Muslims on a worldwide level. That is how sensitive the issue is.

We must learn about the work of the clergy. How did they succeed in steering a resurgence of such magnitude through a passage so difficult, bringing it to a point of such elevation? Not all the leaders can manage such feats. [passage omitted]

That same move which our great imam performed has now thrown the world into a huge burning kiln; it is forcing the East and the West to whirl around themselves. These events in the world are related to our Islamic revolution—some of them directly and some of them indirectly.

That in the bipolar world of today, one of the poles has been removed from the political scene of the world; that there exists nothing by the name of the Eastern bloc, socialist bloc; and that the equations and relations among the world powers and governments and the small countries and regimes have been fully disrupted—these are all related to the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran. These relate to the victory of a religion; these relate to the awakening of Muslims and religious feeling among the conscientious. That is the issue. Of course, there are other factors involved. These are the backgrounds—backgrounds to world events. [passage omitted]

Our movement, in the first instance, has been eventful in such a fashion. If the regime of the Islamic Republic continues on its path with strength, with faithfulness—that is, matching its deeds with its words—and with courage and if it goes on towards the objectives which it has set out for itself, then every step we take will bring about a change and a move in the situation of the world. [crowd chants]

These are all in the direction of elevating the word Islam and also its religious and spiritual values. All of them. That is, all the progress achieved in the world—all these events are in that direction. That is why you witness that the Western governments and the big world capitalists are so angry with us. That will be so no matter, what else they do. That is, let me summarize the whole thing in one sentence: The arrogance and the enemy cannot do anything against us that may lead to our defeat and his victory. He cannot do so. But we oursevles? Why not? We ourselves can do something which, God forbid, may make the enemy happy, may remove the obstacle from his way, may make Islam ashamed and may cut off the path to glory. Yes, we can, but the enemy cannot. If we stand up; then the enemy canot do anything. That is how it is now. Prior to the victory of revolution, perhaps they could do many things to delay it. But now they can no longer do that. [passage omitted]

We must see what were the positive sides to the clergy which gave them the opportunity to mount that great movement and to place the world on the threshold of a major development. Then, we must strenghen those sides in ourselves. And if there were negative sides in the past, then we must be frightened of them. We must block their path. We must not allow new negative sides to appear.

In the cleric society, which is the Shiite scientific society, the positive points are several clear points. One is the science; the other is piety, lack of regard for worldly things. One other point is courage, against the powers, against force. One other point is to belong to the people, to the mass of the people. No religious branch in the world possesses that final characteristic the way we have it, not now, and not in the past. [passage omitted]

Really, our people have shown such outstanding qualities along the path of the aspirations of Islam and the revolution that one can only bow one's head to this nation in reverence and feel humble in the face of the greatness of this nation. Look what phases this nation has crossed and how it stood steadfast along this difficult terrain, for the sake of God. All the world's eyes were fixed on the Iranian people waiting to see what they will do after the imam. Whatever experience came about after the demise of his holiness the imam in these several dark, hard and sad months, this nation, through its

courage and alertness, demonstrated aspects of its qualities which illuminated the atmosphere—this same glorious march of 22 Bahman [11 February] this year was truly one of the events which will remain as a document of pride and illustrious spot in the history of this nation. [crowd chants]

I don't want to thank people for this great movement—the issue is their own concern—who am I to thank them? But I should like to praise them; to bow down to them. [passage omitted]

You can see how whenever we have an event like that of 22 Bahman and we demonstrate something of the presence of the people, immediately afterward, the rumormongering and the propaganda of the enemy multiply, due to their anger and anxiety. It is the same right now. The climate of rumors is with us—you can see for yourselves—foreign radios, enemies, enemies that have lost face; we thank God that the enemies of the Islamic Republic do not possess an ounce of good face and credibility among our people. [passage omitted]

These sincere people are earnestly and resolutely moving toward the objectives of the revolution and you and I have to find our place, our share and fulfill these. The clergy has a very heavy responsibility today. Of course I should say that I have been thinking and realizing that during the whole length of a thousand or so years of the history of the Shiite, never has the Shiite clergy been as effective, capable, and useful as it is today. [slogan chanting]

Today the Shiite clergy is more beneficial and fruitful than it has ever been during the whole length of its fruitful history—and it is now more at the service of Islam and the Muslims—there is no doubt about this. But, time and the grounds for work and the state of this great nation require us to make more effort; we have to work very hard and try very hard. The dear seminary students and young learned men should not, for a moment, forget that they should be present in various arenas. This does not contradict academic learning; rather, it reinforces it. [passage omitted]

Today the paths, the arenas, military and non-military arenas, cultural ones, need your active presence. The honorable and esteemed lecturers and teachers of the Qom seminary and other seminaries should guide and prompt the seminary students toward Islamic and revolutionary goals. It is true that the clergy and Islam have today fully found their path and their place, but it is not as if deviated thoughts have been completely eliminated and uprooted. Those who have yet not been able to understand the revolutionary face of Islam are still here, they are in the seminaries; in the garb of the clergy.

There are still some inside and outside the religious seminaries whose hearts, instead of having enmity towards America and towards the enemies, are filled with enmity for the strugglers in the path of God and the believing youth and the standard-bearers of truth; these are the same ossified people whom the imam repeatedly described as the partisans and lovers of the American Islam, an Islam which separates spirituality, religion, and morality from their proper course, which separates them from the people, which removes them from God, and which brings joy and comfort to the hearts of the enemies of God. There are still such people. The presence of believing, active, and learned youth on all fronts for the sake of the implementation of the goals of the revolution is still a necessity.

We are still at the beginning of the road, my brothers. No one should imagine that since the clergy made their efforts and achieved results, now is the time to go and sit down and engage in our own private work or only in our studies. Of course, studying is one of the important tasks, but it is not our only task. The clergy is at the beginning of its work. In the 11th year of its life, the revolution is still at the beginning of its youth. In the life of a revolution and a nation, and on such standards, 10 or 11 years are not more than a few days. We are still at the beginning of the road, and we should still make every effort. The young seminarians should build up their character. The scholars, the professors, the instructors, and the great ulema should guide the direction of the religious seminaries toward the training of human beings and scholars in keeping with Islamic yardsticks: iron character, and intelligent, indefatigable, and believing individuals. They should try to create exact copies of our illustrious Imam in the religious seminaries. Islam is in need of such individuals. Such persons can of course save an entire nation, but Muslim nations, the world as a whole, and the future of our revolutionary movement and our future history is very much in need of such characters. The seminaries still have a lot of work to do. They still have a great responsibility; but this responsibility is on everyone's shoulders. It is not merely on the shoulders of the sources of emulation or the instructors, and it is not only on the shoulders of young seminarians and scholars. Everyone in keeping with his capability and his position has certain responsibilities in the religious seminaries.

The main thing is that we do not just talk, that we do not stop at praising the words of the Imam, but that we will take practical steps towards the perfection of the work of the religious seminaries and that plans are made for the future direction of the seminaries. Those who can perform this task should do so through reliance upon God. You should know that the people will be happy and pleased with any move by the clergy towards the correct development of the clerical community; in the same way that if, God forbid, they see the members of the clergy busy with their personal affairs, with material affairs, of showing lack of interest and enthusiasm for revolutionary issues, or being immersed in political facionalism and so on, they will be worried and displeased. Therefore, it is the duty of the dear clergy and the ulema to regard God's satisfaction and the people's interest as taking precedence over everything else. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Member Urges Rushdie's Death

LD2102212790 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the issuance of the late Imam Khomeyni's decree about the apostate author of "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie, Allameh Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, a member of the Lebanese Hizballah's command, described Salman Rushdie as a symbol of the conspiracies hatched by world imperialism and international Zionism against the world's Muslim nations, and considers his execution to be religious necessity. Allameh Sayyid 'Abbas al- Musawi said: The late Imam Khomeyni's death sentence against the apostate Rushdie is part of the world Muslims' extensive confrontation with this new plot hatched by the enemies of Islam.

In an article the Karachi-based daily AMN condemned the support extended by the Western world, especially by Britain, to the apostate author of "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie, and called on the thinkers and theologians of the Islamic world to foil world arrogance and international Zionism's new plot by enlightening the Muslims. The daily adds: Despite the silence by the Islamic countries' leaders, the world's Muslims will not forget insults to Islamic sanctities by Salman Rushdie and will send him to hell on a suitable occasion.

Papers Hail Closure of BBC Office in Tehran

LD2102131790 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Two leading morning newspapers Wednesday [21 February] commented on the closure of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) office in Tehran in response to London's hostile attitude towards Iranian citizens in Britain.

In an editorial "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" described the measure as the first official step taken against Britain, proving that the government attached special importance to people's demand.

Therefore, the article added, British officials should be alarmed and await more retaliatory measures in future.

In a resolution issued at the end of an anti-British demonstration in Tehran last week, death penalty was demanded for the British spy in Iran Roger Cooper and Iranian officials were urged to reconsider their economic and trade relations with Britain, wrote the paper.

It stressed that the British Government should be punished and sanctions be imposed on Britain for its treacherous stand against Islam and Muslims, and particularly for its hostile attitude against Iranian nationals in Britain.

The daily noted that the British Government has become isolated following its widespread support for the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", Salman Rushdie.

It urged the officials not to hesitate taking further similar measures, adding that decisive steps should be taken against a government which had supported insolent moves against Islam.

Commenting on the same subject, the daily "ABRAR" wrote that closure of the BBC office in Tehran has been welcomed by various circles and is considered a positive step vis-a-vis hostile attitude of the British Government.

In fact, the massive demonstration of Muslims residing in Britain against the increased British cultural plot hatched through publication of "The Satanic Verses", forced the British Government to impose further pressures on Muslims, said the daily.

It noted that Iran's initiative in breaking off diplomatic relations with Britain has dealt a fatal blow on London's foreign policy.

This measure, the daily added, proved to the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran would not surrender to any power. On the contrary, through reliance on the billion-strong world Muslims, would give a crushing response to any conspiracy.

The article concluded by saying that it was time that Iran responded more to the demands of the domestic forces and take similar initiatives in other fields.

Fundamentalist Leader Cited on Bus Attack

NC2102194090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Feb 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization and former professor of exegesis in Al-Azhar, has made a press statement in which he said that the attack on the bus transporting Zionists near Cairo was not, as some allege, a terrorist attack, but an act of jihad. This was an act which brought joy to our hearts, and we hope that it will be repeated, he stated.

The mufti of the al-Jihad Organization said that this attack must be considered jihad because the Zionist entity is illegitimate and lacks all historical justification. This entity, he said, has so far banished many Muslim Palestinians from their homeland and murdered others.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman expressed his astonishment about the sympathy which the Egyptian regime showed toward the Zionist entity over the killing of a number of Zionists. This same regime, he said, has hardly shown any sympathy to the families of the hundreds of Palestinian mujahidin who were killed.

The mufti of the al-Jihad Organization said that no agreement concluded in Egypt to safeguard the lives of

the Zionists should be honored. The Zionists, he said, are enemies and must be fought. According to Islamic law, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahmand said, every Muslim is sinful unless he honors his duty to liberate Muslim Palestine.

Commentary on Antinarcotics Campaign

LD2002161190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Greetings, dear listeners. The third stage of the antinarcotics campaign began throughout the country today. The third stage of the campaign against merchants of death and for rounding up drug addicts will take place with the mobilization and participation of popular forces in towns and with the benefit of the experiences and achievements of the previous stages. [passage omitted]

The statistics on the amount of narcotic substances seized and the number of people arrested reveal that the antinarcotics campaign in Iran has grown significantly this year and last year. And it is foreseen that that trend will continue to be on the increase in the future.

Now that the third stage of the antinarcotics campaign is being implemented, several points are worth noting. One of the factors that can be decisive in reducing drugs in our country is the issue of resources and responses to the needs and requirements of the drug problem. The lack of equilibrium between resources and needs arises from several things. The size of the geographic area for drug smuggling in Iran and the country's particular geographic position is one of the matters that doubles the need for attending to the issue of implementation and organizational resources. On the other hand, borders are another factor which require greater control. There is no doubt that the antinarcotics headquarters, through the implementation of dozens of control programs and programs for establishing mobile and stationary watchposts has done a great deal and has narrowed the routes for large smuggling convoys. Nonetheless, although crossing eastern and northwestern borders has become more difficult for the merchants of death, some of them have still be seen up to the central desert. The need for adequate resources for confronting the drug problem, especially on the eastern borders, is of great importance at this stage.

Along with the other aspects of the antinarcotics campaign, an assessment of the available resources for rounding up and rehabilitating drug addicts is also of great import at this stage. The rehabilitation of addicts requires an adequate number of camps and health centers in relation to the number of addicts in the country. It is said that 27 drug addict rehabilitation bases exist nationwide now; a great number of bases are thus necessary for a full coverage. Efforts must therefore be made so that resources grow at the same rate as the increasing number of addicts and that the shortage of rehabilitation camps is redressed.

President Receives Security Forces Officials

LD2002192890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Commanders and officials from the information and security units of security forces from all over the country, accompanied by Interior Minister Mr. Nuri, were received this morning by President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that meeting, the interior minister at first presented a report to the president about the convention of a seminar of commanders and officials of information and security units of security forces. [sentence as heard]

Then Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the importance of information and security units of security forces with regard to providing calm and security for the country. He said: You are the guardians of security, and the security forces are responsible for calm, security, and the good management of affairs. He then stressed that the foundation of the Islamic Republic's system is service to the people, adding: If our officers work well in the field of managing the country's affairs, but pay little attention to the people, then the first field will also be damaged. This is because our system's foundation and the objectives of our religion and revolution are that we must serve our people well. The people, in turn, are duty bound to carry their obligations well in relation to the country's law and system.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the stability, security, and comfort of people and society are to a great extent dependent on the works of security and information officers. He added: Fortunately our people are themselves the owner of this revolution, and the Hezbollah forces everywhere are vigilant so that the revolution is not damaged. However, this should not stop the officials responsible for such affairs from carrying out their duties. He then stressed the need for application of greater care and honesty, as well as strengthening the moral and Islamic spirit within the security and information units. He then expressed the hope that such forces may prove to be good officers for Islam, the imam, and the esteemed leadership of the revolution and people.

Courts To Punish Security Violators 'Speedily'

LD2102205890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Those who disrupt public security and violate the lives and property of the people will be tried and punished out of turn and with priority. Mr. Moqtada'i, the head of the Supreme Court, today in an interview with reporters while announcing the above added: In the same way that we acted decisively and speedily with those involved in the cruel murder of the head of the Agricultural Bank of Hamadan and members of his family, we also ask those in charge of courts and first

grade judges of criminal courts and the prosecutors throughout the country to act with the same speed and out of turn with those who violate general security. He said: The Supreme Court is fully prepared to send delegations to all parts of the country for the implementation of the decrees.

Yazdi Chairs Meeting of Judiciary Officials

LD1902150290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A meeting of judiciary officials this morning was chaired by Mr Yazdi, head of the judiciary, and attended by Messrs Moqtada'i, the president of the Supreme Court; Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the state prosecutor general; Justice Minister Shushtari; Musavi-Tabrizi, president of the Court of Administrative Justice; and Seyyed Hoseyn 'Emami, adviser and head of the judiciary leadership council.

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Yazdi stressed the importance of the system of justice in Islam and said: Let the revolutionary nation and the martyr-nurturing ummah be certain that the judiciary is standing strong and fast against any act of wrongdoing, murder, and crime. And just as our eminent imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds, repeatedly stressed the implementation of divine commands and regulations, we, too, God willing, will carry out our divine Islamic duties. He added: The judiciary, one of the important duties of which is the maintenance of security, naturally bears a very heavy responsibility in the face of wrongdoing which threatens that security.

Elsewhere in his remarks Mr. Yazdi said: Bearing in mind the offenses which have been committed recently in some towns—people have possibly entered a residence for the purpose of burglary and have stolen people's possessions; and they have sometimes committed (?graver) offenses, including murder and unlawful deeds; or even, in public places such as banks and government offices, and we had an example of this recently in Hamadan—the opinion of most Islamic jurisprudents, the pioneers, and their followers is that in such cases where a person attacks another with a weapon and causes death or robbery, or frightens people, that person is certified as a wager of war and the relevant Koranic chapter is applicable.

Mr. Yazdi expressed gratitude to security officials and thanked people for their cooperation with officials in confronting offenders. He said: We hope that with the people's support and with special divine blessings we will be able to perform our judicial duties in maintaining security.

Velayati Expresses Support to Palestinian Envoy

LD1802204990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Palestinian ambassador Salah Zawawi met Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. In the meeting, the Palestinian ambassador condemned the conspiracies of arrogance destroying the Islamic uprising in Palestine through the emigration of Jews to occupied Palestinian territories and expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Palestinian Muslim people's uprising and for the goals of that movement.

Mr. Velayati stressed once again the Islamic republic of Iran's multifaceted material and moral support for the sacred ideals of Palestine and emphasized the need for the mobilization of all resources by Islamic and nationalists forces and by progressive governments to foil Zionist-imperialist plots.

Karrubi on International Dimension of Revolution

LD1802210190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the uprising of the people of Tabriz were held today in the presence of Mr Karrubi, the Majles speaker. The Central News Unit correspondent has sent us a report to which we draw your attention:

Mr Karrubi, the Majles speaker, arrived in Tabriz this morning in order to participate in the ceremonies marking 18 February anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Tabriz. He was officially welcomed at that city's airport by East Azerbaijan's governor-general, by clergymen, and by other officials of that province.

In an interview with the Central News Unit reporter, the Majles speaker commemorated the anniversary of the 18 February uprising, praising the struggles of Azarbaijanis for the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said in connection with Security Council Resolution 598 that the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated its position. It is determined that Security Council Resolution 598 be implemented on the basis of the 1975 Algiers Accord, and Iran will never retreat from this position.

He also referred to the hostile stance of the U.S. Administration and said: All the conspiracies against our country arise from U.S. enmity toward the Islamic revolution because the Islamic revolution has inflicted fundamental blows on U.S. interests in Iran and in the region. [passage omitted]

Referring to the international dimensions of the Islamic revolution, Mr Karrubi said: The Islamic revolution, under the leadership of the imam of the ummah, in addition to giving Muslims an identity, character, hope, and greatness, has shaken the arrogant ones out of their stupor in a way which can been seen in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, Egypt, and other Islamic lands. In that same connection, the Majles speaker described the conspiracy of global arrogance in publishing "The Satanic Verses" as arising from global arrogance's fear of the influence of the Islamic revolution. He stressed the importance of the vigilance of the world's Muslim and intelligent people in that regard.

Arabs Urged To Unite Against USSR, West

LD1902111990 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Athens, Feb. 19, IRNA—Arab newspapers and radio broadcasts these days are filled with reports on the planned mass exodus of about two million Soviet Jews to Israel in the next few years with the aim to upset the demographic composition of occupied Palestine in favour of the Jews.

Comments and editorials warn of "grave dangers" to the Palestinian people from the exodus and call for the holding of an emergency Arab summit to deal with the new threat to the Arab world.

Reading between the lines one can, however, easily sense a climate of despair, frustration and disillusionment prevalent in the Arab world in the wake of current developments in the region.

Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have shown a cold shoulder to peace initiatives in the Middle East by pro-West rulers like Husni Mubarak of Egypt, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and King Hussein of Jordan.

In the recently concluded talks in Moscow between the American Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze the Middle East peace process has reached a deadend, inspite of all concessions and capitulations by Egypt and Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

This new development has put both the pro-American and pro-Soviet Arab camps in disarray and left the Arab rulers in the cold.

This situation has once again underlined the truism that both superpowers are hand-in-hand where the Islamic world is concerned. Moscow's use of military force in the Islamic republics in the Soviet Union to quell democratic reforms received the blessings of the West which hastens to condemn any use of force anywhere if Christians are involved.

What will the docile Arab rulers now do to face the new alarming situation in Palestine? They may hold a summit meeting and announce some verbal initiatives, but past experiences have shown that tens of Arab summits have led to nowhere as it will lead to nothing this time too.

The cause of this Arab ineffectiveness is simple. The Arab world lacks power and unity, two crucial elements that the U.S. and the Soviet Union hold in awe and respect.

The Arab rulers and to a great extent the Arab people themselves are to blame for this pitiful situation, but in reality they would do anything to stop the Intifadah, fearing that the uprising could spill over to their own countries.

Much of the blame must also be shared by the apathetic Arab people who are watching the developments are mere spectators and awaiting that others will change their lot.

They must pay serious heed to God's words in his final revelation to mankind, the Holy Koran, that "Allah will not change the condition of a people unless they change what is in themselves."

Mujahidin Groups To Discuss Afghan Elections

LD2102173290 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21 IRNA—Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pir Ahmad Gilani, two of the leaders of the Pakistan-based 7-party Pashtu alliance of Afghan mujahidin arrived here today for talks with the 9-party mujahidin coalition based in Iran, regarding the elections in Afghanistan.

Upon arrival, Rabbani insisted on the participation of the Iran-based mujahidin in the elections, and said 'it is the Afghan people and mujahideen, and not the big powers, that should decide the fate of their country.'

Gilani said he did not think there were any major differences between the 7-party alliance and the 9-party coalition.

The coalition recently criticized the way the Pashtu alliance tends to hold elections, and called for formation of a committee composed of all mujahidin groups to draw up election rules.

Turkish Economic Minister Arrives With Delegation

LD1902204890 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 19, IRNA—Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Gunes Taner arrived here Monday at the head of a delegation.

Taner carries a written message for President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal.

The Turkish delegation includes officials of the Ministry of Industries, Central Bank and the Treasury, and is to discuss issues relating to the upcoming Tehran-Ankara joint economic commission.

The commission will be held in Tehran on February 27 with Turkish Premier Yildrim Akbulut in attendance.

Upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport, Taner expressed dissatisfaction with the present level of Tehran-Ankara economic relations, reasoning that both countries have ample potential for expansion of bilateral economic relations.

Taner is scheduled to confer with Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh and other Iranian officials.

Confers With Commerce Minister

LD2102111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] In today's meeting of the Turkish minister of state for economic affairs and the delegation accompanying him with Mr. Vahaji, minister of commerce of our country, it was stressed that favorable grounds exist between the two neighboring Muslim countries of Iran and Turkey for the expansion of the exchanges of commodities and services as well as economic cooperation. In this meeting, the expansion of the export of Iran's petroleum products to Turkey, the export of crude and refined oil by-products, exchanges of marketing teams, determining procedural methods for payments, and the adoption of new systems in banking relations were discussed.

In this meeting, the two ministers emphasized the need for benefitting from each others' experiences and technical knowledge so as to arrive at an acceptable equibilibium in the balance of trade. They put forward and discussed some suggestions in this regard.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2102125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, this morning received Mr. Gunes Taner, Turkish minister of economic affairs, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, during the meeting, which was attended by Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Mr. Nurbakhsh and several other officials of our country, the Turkish minister of economic affairs first presented the warm greetings of Mr. Turgut Ozal, Turkish president, and handed over his written message to our country's president. Expressing his delight at visiting Tehran and presenting a report on the talks he had held with the authorities of our country, he then declared the readiness of the president and the new Government of Turkey for expanded and all-embracing cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially during the reconstruction era. He expressed the hope that, in light of the forthcoming visit of the prime minister of Turkey to Tehran and the meeting of the two countries' joint commission, bilateral cooperation will expand and deepen further.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Republic, thanked Mr. Ozal, the president of Turkey, for his kind message. He also thanked the minister of economic affairs of Turkey for his report, and continued: Our assessment of the colleagues [as heard] of Mr. Ozal under present conditions is quite positive; we believe that in future the relationship between the two countries will become more active and expanded.

Stressing the need for surveying ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries as much as possible, the president of the republic wished success for the Iran-Turkey joint commission for economic cooperation, which is to be held in Tehran soon.

Oman Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks

LD2102111690 Tehran IRNA in English 1948 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran. Feb. 20. IRNA—Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi 'Abdallah arrived today at the head of a political delegation and was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Omani official is scheduled to hold meetings with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the foreign minister during his three day stay.

Upon his arrival, Bin-al-Alawi told IRNA that the objective of his visit is to discuss issues of mutual concern between the two countries. "Expansion of cooperation between Iran and the regional states is among topics of discussion," he added.

Oman was designated by members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council as a mediator for settlement of Iraq's disputes with the Islamic republic, at the council's latest meeting.

Meets With Velayati

LD2102173190 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21 IRNA—Visiting Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin al-'Alawi conferred with foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

Bin al-'Alawi, special envoy of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [as received], briefed Velayati on his recent contacts carried out according to the direction of the council.

The tenth session of the PGCC held in Muscat two months ago commissioned the government of Oman to mediate between Iran and Iraq for resuming peace talks between the two countries.

"We express our satisfaction with the existing stability and tranquility in the region," he said, calling for further solidification of the stability.

On the relations between Iran and Persian Gulf littoral states, al-'Alawi said: "We witness increasing positive trends in various fields. Heads of the council believe in the importance of the relations between Iran and the regional countries, he noted.

In response, Velayati said the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for expansion of relations with the Persian Gulf countries because of the wide-scale interests it has in the Persian Gulf region.

Velayati expressed satisfaction with expansion of Tehran-Muscat relations.

The Omani minister arrived here at the head of a political delegation Tuesday.

General Staff Chief Meets Pakistani General

LD2002111990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] General Aslam Beg, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, who is heading a delegation on a visit to Tehran, this morning met Mr. Firuzabadi, chief of the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces of our country. According to the Central News Unit, at this meeting, Mr. Firuzabadi emphasized the need for close understanding and cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. General Aslam Beg, referring to the freedom-seeking movements of the world's Muslims, said: The struggles and efforts of the people of Afghanistan in driving out occupying forces from their country, and also the activities of the people of Kashmir and Soviet Azerbaijan in seeking Islam stem from the depth of the influence of Islamic teachings and demonstrate the high level of confidence which the Islamic revolution has given to the oppressed and deprived all over the world.

'Good Understanding' Reached With ROK Minister

LD2002091490 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—South Korean Minister of Energy and Resources Yi Pong-so left here Tuesday morning after signing an economic-commercial letter of understanding.

The South Korean minister arrived here Friday [16 February] at the head of an economic-oil delegation for the third session of Iran-South Korea joint economic commission.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh termed talks with South Korean officials as positive adding that there existed numerous grounds for mutual cooperation.

Summing up the outcome of the third session of the joint commission, Aqazadeh said in the energy committee agreements were reached on completion of petrochemical project in Imam Khomeyni port (formerly a joint Iran-Japan venture), construction of marine platforms, cooperation in the field of power plants, completion of the second phase of the Kangan gas project and other energy related projects.

In industries, manufacturing, telecommunication, fishery and establishment of direct Tehran-Seoul flights, he added.

In addition, said Aqazadeh, Iran's non-oil exports to Seoul were also discussed in talks with the South Korean minister. Overall a good understanding was reached, said the Iranian minister.

He added that in the letter of understanding Iran and South Korea stressed implementation of the UN sponsored Resolution 598 on establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq.

During his 2-day stay here Yi met with the president, ministers of oil, mines and metals, heavy industries, post, telegraph and telephone and foreign affairs.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Argentina

LD2102125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed in the course of the meeting held between Mr Karim Yoma, special affairs secretary of the foreign minister of Argentina, and Mr Va'ezi, the European and American affairs undersecretary of our country's foreign ministry.

According to a Central News unit report, the two sides stress in the memorandum the need for the expansion of bilateral relations, cooperation in the field of international affairs, and implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. The two sides also reached agreement on paving the way for the expansion of cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields, for which a joint annual commission is to be held in Buenos Aires and Tehran. Mr Karim Yoma, left Tehran for Buenos Aires, last night at the end of his five-day visit.

Besharati Meets S. African Friday Prayer Leader

LD1902181590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Friday prayer leader of South Africa today met Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Besharati. In that meeting, the Friday prayer leader of South Africa pointed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the only source of guidance for Muslim countries, and said: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was the only government which put the racist regime of South Africa under full sanctions, and we thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for its rightful stance.

Mr Besharati then pointed out that attention to Muslim affairs is the focal point for the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy. He said: For that reason, in order to safeguard our Islamic integrity, we are facing a state of all-out and important confrontation against the Western world as a whole, in relation to the issue of the blasphemous book of Salman Rushdie.

Zambian Assembly Speaker Departs After Talks

LD1802193190 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—The visiting speaker of the Zambian National Assembly Foniano Molikita left here Sunday morning. He was seen off at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi.

In an interview before departure, Molikita expressed satisfaction with his visit to Tehran terming his talks with Iranian Majlis deputies positive.

He expressed the hope that the talks will be followed up during Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi's visit to Lusaka.

Commenting on the visit of the Zambian delegation and the talks with the Iranian parliamentarians, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said that the two sides discussed formation of the Iran-Zambia Friendship Association. He added that the step would help further improve ties between the two parliaments and governments.

According to the Iranian Majlis speaker issues raised in the talks included Iran's support for African liberation movements and campaigns against racism.

Molikita arrived here last Wednesday heading a delegation.

Minister Commissions Argon Gas Production Line

LD1702142690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] An argon gas production line having a production capacity of 300,000 liters per year was commissioned this morning at the Niru battery plant in the presence of Mr. Torkan, minister of defense and Armed Forces logistics.

According to our correspondent, in addition to argon gas, the plant is capable of producing nitrogen and oxygen gasses as by-products and offering them on the consumer market.

With the commissioning of this production unit, the argon gas needed by the amunition, arms, and electronics industries will be provided.

Nepal

Parliament Members Condemn Government Crackdown

BK2202114690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 22 (AFP)—A third of Nepal's elected members of parliament openly challenged Thursday [22 February] the government's handling of political dissent, condemning this week's bloody crackdown as five more people were reported dead.

In a statement signed by 40 legislators, including former Premier Lokendra Bahadur Chandy, six former ministers and two royal nominees, they condemned the brutal police action against protestors demanding a multi-party government.

Villagers Thursday reported seeing five bodies scattered in southern Chitwan District, where police opened fire last Sunday on demonstrators killing 11 according to opposition sources.

Thursday's statement further aggravated serious rifts within the 140-member National Panchayat, or parliament, at a time when the Himalayan Kingdom's 30-year partyless system is at stake, political observers said.

The 40 legislators, who tried unsuccessfully to oust Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha last fall, said that violence would not yield any results and urged a political solution. "No Nepali can tolerate any act which casts aspersions on national sovereignty and the respected institution of monarchy," they said, reiterating their commitment to the development of democracy.

Analysts said the statement was an open challenge to Mr. Shrestha who, with the support of a handful of cabinet hardliners, has refused to seek a settlement with democracy activists and relied on force.

The members of parliament, where 28 deputies are nominated by King Birendra, strongly deplored the activities of a handful of reactionary elements whose "desperation" they blamed for the current unrest. "No Nepali should deviate from the original path of nationalism," they said.

Meanwhile, activists of the banned Nepali Congress Party and students said they planned to stage marches Thursday in several districts to protest against the crackdown, which has left 11 dead by official count.

Opposition sources say that more than 30 people have died in violence while hundreds more have been injured.

Three left-leaning members of the National Panchayat also distanced themselves Thursday from the Shrestha government, condemning the police firing on unarmed demonstrators in Chitwan, 90 kilometers south of here.

In Chitwan, at least 200 people arrested after the violence were released Wednesday after being held by police for nearly 72 hours, a Nepali Congress source said. But he said that at least 300 others were still being held without proper food or protection by security forces in the Tikauli forest just east of Chitwan.

"Several people have fled to Indian border towns from Chitwan, Dhanusa and other border towns to avoid their arrest and police torture," the source said.

He said police arrested the Chitwan staff of the Nepal Red Cross because they had collected blood from student protestors for people injured in the shootings.

New Indian Envoy Presents Credentials to King

BK2202133090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] The new Indian envoy to Nepal, Lieutenant General S.K. Sinha, presented his credentials to King Birendra today. Welcoming the envoy, the king expressed his appreciation for the cooperation extended to his country by India over the years to meet the basic needs of the people there. He said India's contribution in strengthening the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] is also commendable.

Presenting his credentials, Lt. Gen. Sinha conveyed to King Birendra New Delhi's eagerness to contribute to the economic, industrial, and technical development of Nepal.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on President Mitterrand's Visit

'Vague' on 'Several' Subjects

PM2202090690 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Feb 90 p 7

[By Jacques Amalric]

[Text] Islamabad—The Pakistanis are impatient with France, and you just had to scan their newspapers on 19 February to realize that. Most of the dailies only mentioned the "historic" aspect of Mr. Mitterrand's state visit to emphasize the need for Paris to finally make up for the affront it inflicted in 1978 when the agreement on the supply of a nuclear power station was revoked.

Another grievance was also mentioned, but with infinitely less conviction: the reopening of the French diplomatic mission in Kabul. No, the great issue is decidedly still this nuclear power station, and it is difficult to imagine that Mr. Mitterrand ventured to visit this country without having some solution in mind, because a categorical "no" would further poison relations which are already complex.

However, on 19 February, during the dinner given in his honor by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Mr. Mitterrand did not reveal any of his intentions. He merely left the door open to all hypotheses, simply stating that he will strive to give "new impetus...to economic, technical, and cultural cooperation." Of course, this statement does not exclude anything, but does not announce anything specific either. It is true that the president of the republic had been in Islamabad for barely two hours and only had around 40 minutes of talks with his Pakistani counterpart.

Things must have progressed further on 20 February morning during the meeting Mr. Mitterrand had with Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, but at all events nothing was to be revealed before the joint news conference scheduled for the afternoon of 20 February. Even if Mr. Mitterrand is prepared to give partial satisfaction to the Pakistanis, it is likely that he will reserve the benefit of that for Mrs. Bhutto rather than President Khan, who does not really like her and is doing nothing to make her task easier.

Mr. Mitterrand was also vague about several other subjects which are particularly important for the Pakistanis. For instance, in his speech President Khan emphasized the situation in Kashmir "whose population is being refused the right to self-determination by India." On this subject, the head of state merely reaffirmed that France "maintains close relations with both India and Pakistan" and that "we naturally hope that those two friendly countries will be able to overcome this problem." However, this problem is not about to end, as is indicated by the Indian decision on 19 February to dissolve the Kashmir Assembly without fixing a date for new elections.

Without referring to the reopening of the French mission in Kabul, President Khan did not mince his words about Afghanistan; after expressing satisfaction with France's former position, he said: "If the (Soviet—LE MONDE editor's note) intervention was illegal and immoral, its pawns and its consequences are no different." And he once again emphasized the importance which the three million Afghan refugees have for Pakistan. Mr. Mitterrand could only agree and express the hope for "the advent of a truly independent and nonaligned Afghanistan."

Although Mr. Mitterrand's host avoided any direct reference to the nuclear power station issue, he nonetheless made numerous references to aid for the Third World which, he thinks, is likely to suffer from the upheavals in Eastern Europe. His condemnation of "obstacles to the transfer of technology" and his hope of seeing Franco-Pakistani relations "reaching a qualitatively new era of understanding and cooperation" were clear to all.

The fact remains that his political weakness is taken into account by the French experts. Some people wonder about the worth of assurances that a nuclear power station would not be used for military purposes when they come from a government threatened by the military and by the most conservative and nationalist forces. The Chinese, who have just promised Pakistan two power stations and whose defense minister is currently in Islamabad, do not have the same scruples. Nor did France have any when it came to promising India two power stations.

France To Supply Nuclear Plant

BK2102161590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] France has agreed to supply Pakistan with a nuclear power plant and to assist it in economic, technical, trade, industrial, and educational fields. This was announced by French President Mitterrand at a crowded

news conference that was jointly addressed by him and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad this evening.

Announcing a five-point understanding in the nuclear field, the French president said his country promises to authorize French industrial establishments to make offers from technical and commercial aspects as soon as possible for selling a nuclear power plant to Pakistan. The task can be accomplished either by one organization or in cooperation with other organizations. He said France is aware of the considerable difficulty being faced by Pakistan in the field of energy and that it is interested in utilizing nuclear energy along with other energy sources. The nuclear power plant will be supplied in accordance with international regulations that are applied to export of nuclear power plants and other related materials.

France and Pakistan have also expressed their willingness to amicably resolve the issue of the reprocessing plant, which also includes the issue of payment of compensation through mutual agreement.

The French president said France wants to assist Pakistan in its economic development. It will therefore propose in the next few weeks that an agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy be finalized so that it can be used for meeting requirements in the agriculture, medicine, health, and energy sectors.

President Mitterrand said: We discussed important issues relating to future relations between France and Pakistan, which led to several agreements. Under these agreements, French companies will participate in expansion of cement factories, installation of 8,000 telephone lines, production of food and energy, and supply of (polychloride). An economic agreement was signed as part of last year's protocol providing for 172 million francs. A convention was agreed for teaching the French language at the Institute of Modern Languages in Islamabad. A science and technology institute will also be set up in Pakistan.

On Afghanistan, President Mitterrand stressed the need for conducting free and impartial elections in that country to secure the complete sovereignty and nonaligned status of the Afghan people.

On the Kashmir issue, the French president supported the Simla Agreement and the UN resolutions to ensure that the people of the region are granted the right to self-determination. He recalled that the decision was made by Prime Minister Nehru, who also promised. [sentence as heard] He said that his country is ready to support the rights of the people of Kashmir, and that Pakistani authorities have never considered it as an issue of Pakistan. The French president said that the issue of Kashmir had been raised earlier and his country would like to see the problem resolved legally, as armed confrontation cannot be a solution to any problem.

The prime minister termed the French decision to sell a nuclear power plant to Pakistan as historic and said that Pakistan thanks President Mitterrand and the French Government that the issue of the nuclear plant has been resolved and the difficulties that emerged in the past due to cancellation of the reprocessing plant agreement are now over. She said that the talks and the various agreements reached between them will have deep and far-reaching impacts on the relations between the two countries. The prime minister said that the acquisition of a new nuclear power plant by Pakistan will not create further tension, as complete safeguards will be provided in this regard. She said that Pakistan is not in favor of a nuclear arms race. She also referred to the signing of a nuclear non-attack agreement with India in 1988 in this regard.

Formal talks between Pakistan and France were held in Islamabad today during which French President Francois Mitterrand was assisted by his foreign minister and senior officials, while Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assisted by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and senior officials.

Mitterrand, Bhutto on Kashmir

BK2202033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed willingness to initiate a dialogue with India to resolve the Kashmir issue under the Simla Agreement. Addressing a joint press conference with the visiting French president, Mr. Mitterrand, in Islamabad last evening, the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said her country is not interested in internationalizing the dispute and is prepared to settle it through bilateral negotiations. Ms. Bhutto said Kashmir should not become a problem between the two countries. She denied that Pakistan is in any way involved in the recent happenings in Kashmir.

The French president reiterated his country's stand on the Kashmir issue, saying that the matter should be resolved peacefully between India and Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Mr. Mitterrand said that France looks upon India and Pakistan as good friends and stated that France has very active relations with India in several spheres.

Mr. Mitterrand announced that France is to provide a nuclear power plant to Pakistan. He said the offer will be in accordance with the international regulations and for undertaking peaceful uses of atomic energy in agriculture, medicine, industry, and other areas. Ms. Bhutto said the 900-megawatt plant will be fully open to international inspection and monitoring. She expressed the hope that the proposed nuclear plant will not result in any tension between India and Pakistan.

France and Pakistan also agreed to seek an amicable settlement on the long pending reprocessing plant issue. Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports

that it may be recalled that in 1978 France had unilaterally backed out of an agreement with Pakistan for the setting up of a nuclear reprocessing plant despite Pakistan having made a down payment of $200 million.

Mitterrand on Nuclear Plant Sale

LD2102184190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Mitterrand and Bhutto are the couple of the day. In Islamabad we have the end of Francois Mitterrand's Pakistan trip and a joint news conference with the charming Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. It was an opportunity for the two countries to strengthen their economic, financial, and cultural cooperation and most of all for Francois Mitterrand to give the green light to the sale of a nuclear power station to Pakistan. Thus ends an old quarrel and a long period of waiting. Here is Francois Mitterrand, recorded by our special correspondent, Ralph Pinto:

[Begin recording] France is authorizing French industrialists—this authorization is essential for everything concerning nuclear energy in France—in possible association with one or more foreign partners, to soon present a technical-commercial offer for the sale of a nuclear power station to Pakistan. It is not for the government to decide in behalf of companies on the commercial and financial conditions to be debated because the political decision has been made. And this political decision contains its own logic, that is, that the French Government will closely follow the technical-commercial negotiations to ensure they are successful. We have, in fact, decided to trust Pakistan. [end recording]

France To Donate Wheat

LD2102230890 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] France is going to supply Pakistan with 10,000 tonnes of wheat. This is yet another result of Francois Mitterrand's visit to this country, with the delivery of a nuclear station, a delivery announced this afternoon, may I remind you, by the French president.

The 10,000 tonnes of wheat supplied by France are a present to Pakistan, Minister of Agriculture Henri Nallet indicated this evening in Islamabad.

France is already sending 14,000 tonnes of wheat every year for the 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Departs for Bangladesh

BK2202063090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] French President Mr. Francois Mitterrand was given a warm send-off when he left Islamabad for Bangladesh this morning at the end of his four-day state visit to Pakistan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto bade farewell to the distinguished guest at the airport. Senate Chairman Mr. Wasim Sajjad, National Assembly Speaker Malik Meraj Khalid, and federal ministers were also present on the occasion.

The national anthems of the two countries were played and a smartly turned-out contingent of three services gave the French president a farewell salute. President Mitterrand, accompanied by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, inspected the honor guard. A 21-gun salute was given as the French president boarded the plane.

Spokesman Details 12 Feb Kashmir Border Crossing

BK1602111590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 16 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—A Foreign Office spokesman on Thursday [15 February] said there was every possibility of an involvement of "agent-provocateurs" in the two recent incidents of crossing over to Occupied Kashmir.

Answering to questions at a news briefing at the Foreign Office here, he said such a possibility could not be ruled out, because there was no official plan of crossing the Line of Control.

At Chakkoti, he said, the mob was warned to refrain from crossing over by the security personnel on both the sides.

Explaining the details of the incident, the spokesman said that the events were also witnessed and reported by foreign correspondent present on the scene.

"Our policy", he said, "is not to encourage any crossing of the Line of Control. Because we do not want to put the lives of innocent and unarmed people in danger".

On the day of the incident, he said, a crowd of emotionally-charged people gathered at Chakkoti. The local authorities tried hard to prevent the crossing. A barrier was erected and the bridge connecting the two sides was blocked by barbed wire. A big portion of the crowd was stopped two kilometres away from the Line of Control.

But, some people came close to the Line. At that place, an officer of Pakistan Army continuously warned them of the danger ahead, through a public address system. He even tried to stop them physically.

Some people were stopped there, but a group of young men, from 30 to 50 in number, refused to listen. They said they had two choices. Either the Pakistan Army should shoot them or let them cross the Line. Still efforts were made to prevent a happening, and finally only two of them walked across the bridge.

As Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh informed Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan later, the Indian troops on the other side of the Line of Control also warned these people.

"I respect Mr Singh and I see no reason to question his statement. He claims, and rightly so, that a warning was issued".

Then moments later fires from an automatic gun were heard. Some say it was a sten gun. A foreign correspondent present on this side of the Line of Control says a man standing close to him, a few metres away, fell down with a bullet in head.

The spokesman said the whole incident did not take place all of a sudden. It took hours. This could have easily been terminated peacefully. The Pakistan Army's picket located right at that place tried its best to prevent it. The same should have done by the Indians also.

He said that Mr Singh was told that the people who crossed the Line of Control should have arrested [as published] instead. They were carrying placards which meant they had no guns. Mr Singh, in reply, said that the place concerned is difficult to handle. There are so many angular spots which make visibility very poor.

The spokesman said that the explanation by Indian Foreign Secretary might be true but he still felt that there was no need for the Indian troops to open bursts of fire.

He also confirmed Indian claim that no persons were arrested in this incident, and there were no more bodies on the Indian side. When asked if any people were found missing, he said this could not have been confirmed as yet. There are contradictory reports.

Qin Jiwei Reaffirms PRC Support for Pakistan

BK2202023890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Text] Sino-Pakistan friendship is not only in the interest of the two countries, but is also very important for peace and stability in Asia. This was stated by Chinese Defense Minister General Qin Jiwei at a banquet hosted by Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, minister of state for defense, in Islamabad last night.

Gen. Qin Jiwei said that the Chinese Government's policy of promoting Sino-Pakistan friendship will continue. There will be no change in the Chinese Government's stand of supporting the Pakistan Government in connection with the defense of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said that Pakistan has always maintained high and just principles in international affairs and has played an important role in the just struggle of the Afghan people against foreign aggression.

Col. Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, retired, said that relations between China and Pakistan are based on the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of all countries and maintenance of friendly relations with neighboring countries.